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USSR Report

AGRICULTURE

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12 SEPTEMBER 1986

USSR REPORT
AGRICULTURE

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MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

REPORT FROM WEATHER FORECASTING CENTER

Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 20 Jun 86 p 4

[Article by O. Frolova: "Forecast for Tomorrow"]

[Text] This June it was hot in the capital. From June 1 to 10 the temperature in Moscow was 6-9 degrees higher than average for this time of year. In spite of the heat, the rain also succeed in "overfulfilling" its program for the first 10 days.

"A real tropical deluge will come in." T. Mnatskanyan, an associate at the Forecasting Laboratory confidently told me this on the cloudless day I visited the USSR Gidromettsentr [Hydrology and Metrology Center]. Almost verifying these words, a telephone call from the agrometrological station at the VDNKh SSSR [Exhibition of the Achievements of the USSR National Economy] reported that it had begun raining.

Every hour laboratory information on weather in the capital is broadcast on radio. This information includes telephone reports from several urban meteorological stations. They often differ. This is not surprising. Moscow Oblast occupies 47,000 square kilometers. On such a broad area there can simultaneously be sun and rain.

The station at the VDNKh most accurately describes the weather in the large city. This meteorological site has instruments measuring air moisture, temperature and cleanliness, wind speed, atmospheric conditions. Weather descriptions from other stations are different, although they have similar devices. Buildings reduce wind speed, and asphalt and building walls reradiate heat from the scorching weather. This is why temperatures in the city center are several degrees higher than in other places in the huge city. There are no such disturbances at the VDNKh.

The last report came from the VDNKh a few minutes ago. It becomes part of the general weather picture filled out by weather satellites. Several photographs from space show that cloud cover is gradually increasing over the Northern Hemisphere. Changes are expected. Figures flash on the screens. After reading them, the weather forecasters see where it will be clear and where cloudy.

The computers in front of me calculate atmospheric pressure at different altitudes and a plotter makes a graph describing weather in the capital over the next day. Accurate forecasts require data from a radius of several thousand kilometers around the capital, and in order to look three days ahead it is necessary to examine the situation for the entire hemisphere.

One of the laboratory's task is to promptly inform various organizations about the weather in the next few hours. Gosatvoinspektsiya [State Motor Vehicle Inspectorate] is informed that there will be morning fog on the roads, and Mosenergo [Moscow Regional Energy Administration] about the location and strength of thunderstorms, construction organizations -- about wind speed and direction, Gosagroprom about hail and frost. This around the clock weather reporting is for our sake. Thanks to them we will not be taken unawares by the weather.

11574

CSO: 1824/370

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

EARLY JUNE WEATHER COMMENTARY

Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 5 Jun 86 p 4

[Article by TASS: "A Drenching Storm Was Swirling"]

[Text] Summer on the Russian Plain with all its beauty started back in May. June already holds a record for heat. In Moscow, for example, the record absolute maximum temperature for 2 June was broken -- the thermometer reached 30.4 degrees C. The previous maximum (for observations for over 100 years) was in 1921 -- 30.2 degrees.

In the capital and its environs, there are scorching days and hot nights and nature leaves no hope for the weather. The land is strong, it is a joy to wake up, greenery is at the height of its development. Many types of trees and bushes are in full flower. Flowers are also blooming in the forests, meadows and in flower beds and lawn. And now, earlier than previously, a drenching storm has come.

We are in the power of an unexpected season -- the strong onset of summer. Its sources began in the miracle of spring. The three spring months brought three different records. March was a burst of snow storms and anamolous heat: in Moscow it exceeded +0.3 C compared to a -5 average. One day in April broke the record, and two other days matched it. However, the main thing was an absolute record precipitation: 102 mm -- three monthly averages -- fell in the capital.

The crown of the season of renewal -- May -- wanted to become summer. The temperature averaged 13.7 C. However, even this was not as impressive as the power of the May light. The sun shown for 302 hours, more than for any month in the bright summer. Without risk, one can state that even the brightest month of the year will not exceed this May.

Judging by similar months and phenological signs, in June there is a slowdown in the increase in the heat and a weakening of the sultriness. In the some researchers' opinion, the strong plant growth changes the atmosphere's energy balance and causes thunderstorms.

The heat is moving towards the Urals and Siberia, where it is already expected and cyclones are being "prepared" for it.

11574

CSO: 1824/370

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

'BETTER' GRAIN HARVEST IN SOUTHERN USSR

LD291102 Moscow TASS in English 1038 GMT 29 Jul 86

["Bumper Harvest in Southern Areas of the USSR"--TASS Take Identifier]

[Text] Moscow 29 July TASS--A better harvest than in the past years has been grown in the southern regions of the Ukraine, the regions along the Volga and in the northern Caucasus, which make one of the main grain belts of the USSR, a TASS correspondent was told by Aleksandr Kolobov, head of the grain crop department of the USSR State Agri-Industrial Committee.

This is particularly gratifying, he continued, because some of those areas once suffered from partial drought. The effects of weather have been "bettered" due to a science based system of farming and intensive technology in keeping with the demands spelled out at the 27th Congress of the CPSU.

Last year grain crops were cultivated on the basis of intensive technology in this country on an area of 17 million hectares, and due to it additional 16 million tons of grain were received. Now they are even more successfully applied on 29 million hectares of grain fields, above all in the southern areas.

Now winter wheat crops in some farms of the Northern Caucasus have reached 70-80 centers per hectare.

High quality wheat notable for a high protein content and good for baking occupies a larger proportion in the grain harvest than before, the spokesman for the State Agri-Industrial Committee said. All that grain is, as a rule, delivered to the centralised stocks. Instead farms get effective combined fodder [mixed feed].

Additional measures have been taken to improve the quality of grain storage in places of its production. Large-scale construction of metal grain storages has been started.

/12913

CSO: 1822/158

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

IZVESTIYA REVIEWS HARVESTING CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

PM310954 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Jul 86 Morning Edition p 1

[V. Gavrichkin "Agricultural Review": "The Harvest--Successes and Lessons"]

[Text] The USSR Central Statistical Administration reports: By 21 July grain and pulses (excluding corn) had been cut on 25.5 million hectares. Threshing had been carried out on 21.6 million hectares, or 85 percent of the area cut. The weekly increase in the area harvested totaled 9.1 million hectares.

For the sake of comparison I will mention that during the preceding 7 days grain had been harvested from 6.7 million hectares. The harvest is confidently gathering momentum.

While for the grain growers in most grain growing regions all the work still lies ahead, in North Caucasus the harvest has entered what is described as the homestretch. More than 1.5 million metric tons of grain have already been delivered to elevators in Stavropol Kray, while farmers in the Kuban are on the point of topping the 3 million mark. Here, and also in the south of the Ukraine, there are kolkhozes and sovkhoses which have already completed the grain harvest. Preparations for winter sowing are under way.

It is possible to sum up the preliminary results. This is all the more necessary since the experience gained during the first stage of the harvest provides a lesson.

Grain is of great value for us always. If the harvest is good, it would be annoying to lose even a small part of it, and if it has been affected by drought, every ear grown with such difficulty has to be treasured all the more. But even in the Kuban, where the harvest is excellent this year, the harvest is not proceeding without losses on individual farms. An old truth has once again been confirmed: Machinery has to be in a state of complete readiness for the harvest, and furthermore, not simply readiness "in general," but readiness which takes the specific features of every field into account.

It seemed that the organizers of the harvest on "50-letie Ukrainy" sovkhos in Popasnyanskiy Rayon, Voroshilovgrad Oblast, had thought of everything. And yet in the 125-hectare field where the wheat was harvested by machine operators M. Gaydidey, S. Parfilev, and R. Sagimbayev there were squashed swathes, heaps of ears, unthreshed grain in piles of straw. Why was this? After all, the wheat here had been grown by the same financially autonomous detachment of machine operators.

It was revealed that relying exclusively on the contract method and material incentives, the agronomists on this and a number of other farms did not include test threshings in the harvest procedure and allowed harvest work to proceed unsupervised. Furthermore, it emerged that the equipment had not been prepared for the harvest as well as it might have been.

This example provides a lesson. After all, on many farms in Kazakhstan, Altay Kray, and Novosibirsk Oblast agronomists have been heard boasting: "Now every combine operator is interested in the end result." Here the technologists are forgetting the experience gained by the best contract collectives. It is precisely in these collectives that strict mutual supervision and the personal responsibility of each worker for the quality of his work have been organized most efficiently and rigorously.

All this must be heeded right now by the grain growers in Siberia and Kazakhstan. A good harvest is ripening there. However, delays in the preparations for the harvest are causing concern.

On many farms in Kazakhstan, for instance, the practice of postponing overhauls of harvesting machinery until the spring and summer has still not been eradicated. And so, much of it still is not ready yet. On kolkhozes and sovkhoses in Dzhezkazgan, Aktyubinsk, Turgay, and North Kazakhstan Oblasts more than one-third of the combines require repairs. In June, for instance, farms managed to get ready only 1-4 combines and 1-2 harvesters each. And in Uralsk Oblast, where only a few days remain before the beginning of the mass grain harvest, one-fourth of the combines and one-third of the harvesters are not ready for field work. At the Aktyubinsk truck transport administration 53 percent of trucks and 50 percent of trailers are not ready for harvest work.

And that despite the fact that people here know from past experience that many grain harvesting combines and trucks overhauled in a hurry at the last minute subsequently stood idle in the fields more than they worked.

So far we have been talking only about visible shortcomings, about statistics recorded in the books. Yet if we were to check on the spot whether combines have been sealed to avoid grain losses or whether attachments to harvest stunted, thin, and flattened grain are available....

Recently the question of gathering this year's harvest on time on farms in eastern rayons of the RSFSR and the Kazakh SSR was discussed at a session of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo. Attention was focused on ensuring the careful tending of crops, preparing within the near future tractors, combines, trucks, other machinery, and grain cleaning and drying equipment, and staffing harvesting machinery and transport facilities with skilled cadres.

I would like to emphasize that as from this year, grain reception enterprises are allowed to accept grain from kolkhozes and sovkhoses in West and East Siberia and North Kazakhstan directly as it comes from the combines and that a new system of payment for drying and cleaning grain has been introduced. This makes it possible now, after amending the harvesting procedure, to avoid losses and cut costs.

Even while harvest work is in progress, many farms are already thinking about next year's harvest. Many, but not all. For instance in Orenburg Oblast, just like last year, the leaders and specialists on certain kolkhozes and sovkhozes and rayon agroindustrial associations neglect the inspection of test sowings of special varieties and carry out their approbation formalistically. Workers on a number of farms in the Ukraine are also lagging behind with preparations for winter sowing and have only a vague idea about the whole cycle of work to be carried out on the land where winter crops are to be grown using intensive techniques. And this despite the fact that the area under winter crops to be grown using intensive techniques is to be enlarged to cover 16.7 million hectares.

The grain harvest and the harvest of other crops is getting under way while feed procurement is still continuing. By 21 July grass had been cut on 55.2 million hectares and 43.9 million metric tons of hay, 43.2 million metric tons of haylage, 6.4 million metric tons of silage, and 3.2 million metric tons of grass meal had been procured.

/8309

CSO: 1824/430

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

SELSKAYA ZHIZN REPORTS SOWING PROGRESS BY MID-MAY

PM261522 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 22 May 86 p 1

[N. Osychkin "AGRICULTURAL REVIEW": "Shock Labor to Complete the Sowing Campaign"]

[Excerpts] Only a few more days remain in May. Yet it will be these days which will largely decide the fate of the harvest. Agricultural workers must successfully complete the spring sowing season, tend the sowings which occupy a vast area, and do everything necessary to ensure that the agroindustrial complex can gratify the country with high yields of grain and other agricultural products.

According to the USSR Central Statistical Administration spring crops had been sown on 94.8 million hectares on kolkhozes and sovkhoses and at interfarm enterprises by 19 May. This represents 66 percent of the plan. The sown area increased by more than 17.6 million hectares during the past week. The main front of the sowing campaign has moved on to eastern regions where sowing of the main food crop--spring wheat--is underway. Nature gives agricultural workers in the Transurals, Siberia, and North Kazakhstan very little time to grow a harvest. And this year there may be even less time. Cold weather and rain have delayed field work and set back the season during which this work can be carried out to maximum advantage. This is why the last 10-day period of May which we have entered must become a period of shock labor in the sowing campaign to ensure that sowing is completed on all farms. Machine operators are called upon to display special skill and proficiency so as to gain time and ensure that the seeds are placed in the ground without fail. In Altay Kray almost 1.5 million hectares have been sown, in Krasnoyarsk Kray and Chita Oblast more than 500,000 hectares, and in the Buryat ASSR 330,000 hectares.

And in the RSFSR as a whole, spring crops had been sown on a total of 50.3 million hectares by 19 May. This represents more than 65 percent of the plan. In addition, part of the winter crop and perennial grass sowings damaged during the winter have been resown with barley, wheat, corn, and other crops. Despite the warm and sunny weather in the country's European part, many farms in the republic's Northern and Northwest Economic Regions are lagging behind with the sowing. Complaints about chemical industry enterprises' delays in delivering fertilizers to be introduced into the ground together with the seeds have been received from Siberian kolkhozes and sovkhoses. Furthermore, frequently the fertilizers arrive in a caked state, unfit for use.

The mass sowing season has begun in the Kazakh virgin lands. Four thousand teams have launched a competition for a high pace and excellent quality of field work. It has already yielded its first results. Spring crops have been sown on 9.6 million hectares in the republic, or one-third of the plan. Kokchetav, Tselinograd, and Kustanay Oblasts' machine operators are working very hard. Intensive techniques are being applied on a substantial area in these oblasts this year. This will not only make it possible to match the yields of leading collectives but also to sharply increase the production of strong and hard wheat varieties. With a view to speeding up the sowing, the large-group method is being used on most farms and night shifts and efficient servicing of the machinery have been organized. At the same time, at a number of places part of the machine and tractor pool is still not being used and there are difficulties in manning the seed drills with machine operators. It is important to complete the sowing season within the shortest possible time everywhere, eliminating shortcomings as we go along.

Large amounts of work have to be carried out within the remaining days of spring not just in the cereal fields. A number of other crops is yet to be sown. It has already been noted that sowing of buckwheat is proceeding extremely slowly. Buckwheat occupies only 534,000 hectares, or 35 percent of the plan. The following oblasts which specialize in the production of buckwheat continue to lag behind: Orel oblast--6 percent of the plan sown; Tula--10 percent; Gorkiy--11 percent; and Kuybyshev--189 percent. But good examples also exist. Belorussian farms are expanding the sowings of buckwheat as against last year and have set up special links which use intensive techniques. As for other groat crops, attention must be drawn to millet which so far occupies 1.1 million hectares, or 45 percent of the plan. In the Volga region only one-third of the area allocated to this crop has been sown and in the Urals only one-fourth. Work has not yet been completed in the irrigation zone where rice occupies 484,000 hectares, or 77 percent of the plan.

With a view to enhancing the quality of feeds for livestock, farm and agroindustrial association leaders are called upon to pay special attention to the cultivation of pulses and other crops rich in protein. In a number of places the sowing of peas, peavine, vetch, beans, rape, perko, sunflower, and perennial noncover grasses has still not been completed. Soybeans occupy 176,000 hectares, or just under one-fourth of the plan. The first thousands of hectares of soybeans have been sown in Amur oblast. In Maritime Kray where soybeans are to be grown on 100,000 hectares, industrial techniques are being introduced for the first time. The area allocated to this valuable crop in Azerbaijan has been increased by 50 percent. Work on the soybean fields in the Ukrain, North Caucasus, and the Volga region must be sped up.

The vegetable conveyor is gathering momentum. Spring cabbage, radishes, and greens have been dispatched to cities and industrial centers from Azerbaijan and Central Asia, while in many rayons sowing work still continues. In the RSFSR, for instance, vegetable crops occupy 338,000 hectares. This represents 65 percent of the plan. Potatoes are to be planted on a further 600,000

hectares in the republic. It is especially necessary to speed up this work on farms in Smolensk and Yaroslavl Oblasts. Feed crops occupy almost 20 million hectares in the country.

The sowing campaign is drawing to a close on grain corn, sunflower, sugar beet, and cotton plantations. Shoots have appeared and continue to progress.

/12913

CSO: 1824/438

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

LEAD EDITORIAL ON JUNE CROP WORK PROGRESS

Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 13 Jun 86 p 1

[Editorial: "Better Care -- More Generous Fields"]

[Excerpts] A businesslike attitude now characterizes the majority of farmer collectives growing crops on a huge area in the country, above all, those caring for cultivated land, where, as they say, in a single hour a "green fire" and pests can do irreplaceable harm. This is why sugar beet growers in Yampolskiy Rayon, Vinnitsa Oblast, Pervomayskiy and Dvurechanskiy in Kharkov Oblast, Ustinovskiy and Novogorodkovskiy rayons in Kirovgrad oblasts rapidly (in 7-10 days) finished high density planting with minimal labor outlays.

At present, when there is dry and hot weather in the main sugar beet growing regions, and in a number of places there is intensive spreading of weeds and pests, it is necessary to very rapidly complete planting on all fields, prevent crops from perishing and not to laxen the attention paid to them. Only careful attention to all components of moisture saving technology, and the high responsibility of farm specialists, mechanics and machinery operators will make it possible to gather an abundant harvest of roots with high sugar content.

The planting of other crops also requires very close attention. The hot weather activates many dangerous agricultural pests, for example the Colorado beetle on potatoes. This means that workers in Selkhozkhimiya and plant protection services must be ready not only for preventive treatment of crops but also for the suppression of foci for the mass spread of harmful insects. Constant concern about the protection of vegetables and industrial crops is a sacred concern for farmers during the summer.

Grain land is now the most important part of work, it requires close attention from specialists, mechanics and machinery operators. Above all, this applies to intensively farmed fields. During the vegetative growth period the grain crops grown by intensive technology on 31 million hectares should obtain the needed nutrients, depending upon the plant development phase. In order to have a good harvest of strong and valuable wheat, during the heading period -- the onset of grain forming -- top dressings of nitrogen fertilizer are applied. Shouldn't even a preliminary evaluation of such crops, made in order to have uniform batches of grain during harvest, pursue the same goal?!

Farms with irrigated land face important tasks. In a number of regions there are increased temperatures and dry winds. Around the clock watering, when necessary combined with top dressing, should be organized here. In caring for perennial grasses which have been "touched" by the sultry heat, the best tactic is to make the first cutting sooner, and to water and fertilize. This will result in maximum yields on subsequent cuttings.

Cotton and rice growers in the Central Asian republics and southern Kazakhstan are now faced with managing a different situation -- the rational use and savings of water. When river levels are lower than the multi-year average and there is not enough water in the main reservoirs, it is the proper activity of farms to seek out additional water sources for irrigation. New wells are being completed, additional pumping units built, low salinity collector water used, runoff has been almost completely eliminated.

The first half of summer is a favorable time to improve field fertility: apply organic fertilizers, lime and gypsum. Fallow fields should have a special place in this work, above all with regard to conserving moisture, applying fertilizer and eliminating weeds and pests. Sometimes not enough fallow is plowed, especially in Novogorod, Kalinin and Gorkiy oblasts. It should be remembered that in the Nonchernozem and Volga zones fallow is primarily intended for winter crops using intensive technology. This means that it must be prepared at the proper time and in a high quality manner.

Swathers and combines have already entered the fields in the southern regions of the country. It won't be long before the harvest front moves north. Keeping this in mind and preparing for the harvest, growers and all workers in the agro-industrial complex should not for a minute forget concerns about the present -- care for crops. The size of the crop, and fulfillment of targets in the Food Program depend upon this.

To each hectare -- exemplary care!

11574

CSO: 1824/370

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

SOVIET MEDIA REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS 16-30 JULY

LD190355 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 16-18 July. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

16 July:

Today cereal crops have been harvested and threshed over an area of 150,000 hectares in Kirghizia. That is one-third of the crops sown. The late spring extended the time for the crops to ripen. (0600)

The southern rayons of Tajikistan will start harvesting the new cotton crop in August. The Central Committee of the Tajik Communist Party and the Tajik SSR Council of Ministers have adopted a decision on the preparation of kolkhozes and sovkhozes and cotton-cleaning enterprises of the Tajik SSR Gosagroprom for the harvesting, procuring and processing of raw cotton in the 1986 harvest. It exceeds 300,000 hectares on the cotton plantations. But there are only 103 machine operators for 100 tractors in the republic, and even less in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast. (0800)

17 July:

Two million metric tons of grain have arrived in Kuban grain reception centers. (Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 17 July; from the "Vremya" Newscast)

Heat and drought have caused crop damage in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast; intensive technology wheat has survived. (Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 17 July; from the "Vremya" Newscast)

Kirov Oblast has been plagued by rains. Haymaking technology has reached great heights, with drying installations and ventilators. (Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 17 July; from the "Vremya" Newscast)

Stavropol farmers have delivered the first million metric tons of grain to state granaries; 94 percent of the wheat is of strong and valuable strains. (1800)

Krasnodar Kray kolkhozes and sovkhoses have put the second million metric tons of grain into state storehouses; alongside harvesting work, farmers are preparing soil for next year's harvest. (2104)

Magadan Oblast had unprecedented warm weather to help in increasing rates for hay mowing. In the brief northern summer sovkhoses have to lay in about 80,000 metric tons of hay and more than 150,000 metric tons of silage. The work is not easy as main areas to be mown are in the valleys of taiga rivers and far from populated areas. Workers have been sent in by helicopters and by motor vessels along the Sea of Okhotsk. Good camps and housing have been built everywhere where work is being carried out. (2104)

Mass grain harvest has begun in Urals Oblast in Kazakhstan where an area of more than 1.5 million hectares is to be harvested. More than 400 harvester and tractor complexes and detachments have been formed. All conveyor links between the field and the elevator are operating according to a schedule developed by computers. (2300)

The first grass mowing has been completed in Bryansk Oblast; 400,000 metric tons of hay have been stored, which is considerably more than last year. (2300)

In the southern rayons of Tula Oblast, grain harvesting has begun. The grain crops area is more than 800,000 hectares this year. The farmers pledged to sell 442,000 metric tons of grain to the state. (0000)

18 July:

Farms in Stavropol Kray have now sold their first million metric tons of grain to the state, much of it strong and hard varieties of wheat. (2130)

The grain harvest has ended in Turkmenistan and crop supplies to the state have been increased. At present, the second sowing of corn is being carried out. (0000)

LD240812 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 19-24 July. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

19 July:

The harvest of grain crops has started in the south and the west of Belorussia. (0204)

Harvested crops have begun to come in to the elevators in Yershov, Krashnokutsk, Marks and other harvest areas in the region on the left bank of the Volga in Saratov Oblast. The first 50,000 metric tons of winter rye and wheat have been received. (0400)

20 July:

Altay Kray's kolkhozes and sovkhoses have already laid in 2 million metric tons of fodder. (1904)

Harvest has begun in Orenburg Oblast, where 4 million hectares are sown to grain, mainly wheat. Agriculturalists have pledged to sell 3,460,000 metric tons of grain crops to the state. (2130)

21 July:

The capacity of the elevators of the Tselinograd Oblast has been raised, and is now up to 200,000 metric tons of grains per diem. (0204)

Harvesting of grain crops is gathering momentum in southern, western and central Belorussia, and has been completed on approximately 140,000 hectares. Gomel, Brest and Minsk Oblast farms have started selling grain to the state. (1300)

Altay rivermen have shipped 115,000 metric tons of grain from kray elevators to make room for the new harvest. (1300)

The first million metric tons of cereals has been received by the cereal product enterprises in six oblasts in Kazakhstan. (2300)

22 July:

The capacity of granaries in the Tselinograd Oblast has been boosted thanks to reequipment. (0100)

An agricultural machine of a new class--hay-tender [senovoroshitel]--has been tested in the Irkutsk Put Ilyicha Kolkhoz. The machine, which is designed for fodder procurement, has been manufactured at the local Shelekhov Repair Works. It makes it possible to accelerate hay drying by using forced ventilation. The whole process takes no more than a day. (0100)

The Uralsk Oblast of Kazakhstan has begun harvesting of grain crops. The grain crops have been sown in accordance with intensive technology on 235,000 hectares; the oblast's total is over 1.5 million hectares. (0130)

In Stavropol Oblast, 1.5 million metric tons of cereals have been delivered to the state granaries by today. More than 100,000 metric tons are being delivered daily. (0204)

In Kuybyshev Oblast, harvesting has begun today. Cereals and pulses are to be harvested on an area of 1.8 million hectares. (0204)

Uralsk Oblast in Kazakhstan has begun the general harvesting campaign. An area of 235,000 hectares has been cultivated using intensive technology. (0204)

The Kuybyshev Oblast has begun harvesting. Its farmers have to harvest and thresh grain crops and pulses on 1.8 million hectares. (0230)

Grain crops in Belorussia have so far been harvested from 140,000 hectares. (0500)

Grains are being threshed on 50-60 hectares daily in Saratov Oblast. Combines are harvesting winter rye and wheat. Lands cultivated by intensive methods are producing yields from 4 to 5 quintals per hectare in excess of usual yields. (0600)

The Kazakhstan virgin lands are working at full speed in fodder preparation and tending crops and furrows. Preparation for the harvest is under way. Meanwhile every third combine harvester on many farms is not ready to go out into the fields. Crash programs and last-minute dashes, all sorts of excuses attributed to various causes are rife. At the same time as early as winter about 80 percent of machines were brought up to the ready mark in farms in Kustanay Oblast. This is partly a result of new payment systems: machine-and-tractor repair workshop employees are now paid according to the state of their machines. The front-ranking experience of the Kustanayers has been summarized by the Kazakhstan State Agroindustrial Committee. (1100)

Grain farmers in Orenburg Oblast have started harvesting. Winter rye and wheat from the southern rayons are arriving at the elevators. (2330)

23 July:

Farmers in Kazakhstan have so far procured more than 9,330,000 metric tons of grain crops. The rate of procurement of feed crops is much faster than last year. The rates of harvesting of green feed crops are being kept down partly by bad weather, and partly by poor organization of work. (0030)

Farmers in Saratov Oblast have harvested eared crops from 500,000 hectares. (0330)

In Kazakhstan, almost 9.5 million metric tons of hay have been procured--57 percent of plan. The figure for haylage is 1,870,000 metric tons--nearly 50 percent of the quota. Kustanay Oblast is very close to fulfilling the year's plan. (0400)

The state commission has accepted for use the first thousands hectares of irrigated land in the area of the third stage of the Sebero-Krymskiy Canal. After completion of the third stage, the irrigated area in the Crimea will be increased by another 88,000 hectares.

At present in the country as a whole, about 14 million hectares of irrigated land are being used for the food program, and during this 5-year plan another 3.3 million hectares will be added to this. (Moscow Television Service in Russian 1050 GMT 23 Jul 86; from the "Novosti" Newscast)

Grain crops and pulse crops are to be harvested on 1 million hectares in Ryazan Oblast. Sunny weather earlier in the summer made the grain ripen quickly, but of late the weather has been changing. (1100)

By today, 1.5 million metric tons of hardy and valuable wheat arrived at state storehouses from Stavropol Oblast. State procurement continues at a rate of about 80,000 metric tons grain crops per day. (1500)

In Orenburg Oblast, 20,000 combine harvesters will begin work. (1500)

The largest seed field of perennial grasses in the country has been created in Ukraine. Today specialized farms have started threshing the harvest. Perennial grasses have to be gathered and threshed from an area over 570,000 hectares. Amur Oblast: farms are completing preparations for harvesting early grain crops. The uneven ripening of cereal crops is now one of the main complications of the harvesting campaign in the Amur Valley. At individual farms, selective cutting and threshing of barley has already begun. (2005)

LD260330 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 24-25 July. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parenthesis at the end of each item.

24 July:

The results of socialist competition among animal husbandry workers have been reviewed for the first half of the year in Uzbekistan. Over 20 rayons have not coped with their plan for the sale of meat and eggs while over 60 rayons have not fulfilled their tasks concerned with milk output. As a result, the republic as a whole has been undersupplied by tens of thousands of metric tons of animal husbandry output. (0600)

Farms in Krasnodar Kray have sold 3 million metric tons of grain by now to the state. Many grain elevators have been overhauled there which has doubled the throughput of transport turnover. (1800)

Pea harvesting started today in Altay Kray, this crop occupies over 160,000 hectares. (1800)

The first 1,000 metric tons of early potatoes were shipped today to Moscow, Murmansk, and Astrakhan from Bryansk Oblast. The quality of the shipped crop is being checked by special commissions. Over 3,500 potato combines are to participate in the harvesting. (1800)

Harvesting of grains has started over a large front in Gorkiy Oblast. Machine operators are to harvest crops from 1,135,000 hectares this year. (1950)

Bryansk Oblast's potato field covers 105,000 hectares, the biggest in the RSFSR. (1950)

More than 70,000 hectares of grain have been reaped and threshed in Tajikistan. This is 75 percent of the winter wheat and barley area. (2230)

25 July:

Farms of all rayons of Saratov Oblast are selling grain to the state. To date 200,000 metric tons of winter rye and wheat have reached elevators and storehouses. (0500)

Machine operators have begun harvesting spring wheat from an area of 2 million hectares in Orenburg Oblast. (0800)

The deputy chairman of the agro-industrial committee of Nikolayev Oblast reports that early grain crops have now been fully harvested from 668,000 hectares in a period of 20 working days. (1800)

Harvesting of winter crops is now complete in Saratov Oblast: roughly 700,000 hectares of winter rye and wheat have been collected, over half the wheat being strong valuable varieties. Barley harvesting has now begun. (2230)

LD280255 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 26-27 July. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at end of each item.

26 July:

Saratov Oblast has completed grain harvesting. (Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 26 July; from the "Vremya" Newscast)

Since the start of harvesting Stavropol Kray has delivered more than 1.92 million metric tons of barley and wheat to procurement points. (Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 26 July; from the "Vremya" Newscast)

27 July:

Harvesting of alfalfa for seed has begun in Kirghizia. Farmers there are threshing over 2 quintals of pure grain per hectare on average--the best results achieved in the country. Over 6,000 metric tons of alfalfa seeds will be dispatched to farms in the Baltic republics, Belorussia, and the RSFSR. (0100)

A new fruit-growing and processing complex has begun producing at Shindisi in Georgia. There are now over 10 such complexes in the republic. (0100)

Farms in Kirovograd Oblast have delivered 500,000 metric tons of grain to elevators. (0430)

The second stage of Kazakhstan's largest vegetable store has gone into service in Tselinograd. This provides an extra 10,000 metric tons capacity. (0430)

Kuban harvest is moving from the flat steppe area to the foothills of the Caucasus Mountains. (1100)

The 500,000th metric ton of grain from Kirovograd Oblast already has been delivered to the elevators. (1100)

In the Chuy Valley in Kirghizia, gathering in of sugar beet seeds has begun. Roughly 16,000 metric tons of sugar beet seeds are to be supplied by the farmers of Kirghizia to the RSFSR and other union republics in the first year of the current 5-year plan period. (1100)

LD310349 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 28-30 July. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

28 July:

Ryazan farms have laid in 30,000 metric tons of hay to date for public-sector feed. (0400)

The grain harvest front has moved over more than 500 km toward the northeast in Kazakhstan. Mass grain harvest began in Semipalatinsk Oblast today. Together with the harvest process, ploughing of fallow for spring sowing is being carried out. (0900)

Mass grain harvesting has ended in the steppe rayons of Stavropol Kray. (1430)

Machine operators of Rostov Oblast finished harvesting cereals today. Grain crops have been thrashed on an acreage exceeding 2.5 million hectares. (1530)

Sovkhozes and kolkhozes in Krasnodar Kray have delivered more than 3.25 million metric tons of grain to procurement points and elevators to date. (2230)

29 July:

Farms of 11 oblasts of the Ukraine have completed harvesting grain and pulse crops. In all these oblasts apart from Voroshilovgrad the harvest has been considerably higher than last year. (0400)

Saratov Oblast has started harvesting barley. (0400)

Some 110,000 metric tons of grain have been delivered in Ryazan Oblast to date. (0400)

The plan for laying in hay has been fulfilled in Khabarovsk Kray. (0400)

The harvest ended in Moldavia today. Wheat with an increased gluten content has been cultivated in all rayons of the republic for the first time. (0800)

All Altay elevators and grain reception points are now ready for the new harvest. They will be capable of receiving up to 100,000 metric tons of grain a day at the height of the harvest. (1300)

30 July:

The broad-swathe reaper Styep' has been put into production at the Krasnoyarsk Grain Combine Association. The collective is to produce 500 Styep' reapers before the end of the year. (1100)

The Mari Non-chernozem Zone is starting the grain harvest. In all, the farmers of the autonomous republic are to harvest grain and pulse crops from an area of 330,000 hectares. (1500)

The threshing of cereal crops has been completed in Krasnodar Kray, Rostov Oblast, Stavropol Kray, Moldavia, and many farms in the south of the Ukraine. The northern front of the harvesting now runs from the shores of the Baltic republics and through the northwestern oblasts of the Russian Federation. Harvesting has started on the European side of the Urals. Work also is underway in the cornfields of the far East. The grain being sold to the state is of high quality. In the south all the grain in the main that is being delivered to the elevators is of the strong and valuable varieties. The stationary method of threshing grain crops has cut down waste this year. (1800)

Dzhambul Oblast farmers are the first to have completed harvesting grain in the republic. It was carried out on an area of over 500,000 hectares in 12 working days. (1830)

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CSO: 1824/433

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

LATE JUNE HARVEST NOTES; LATE JULY GRAIN HARVEST UPDATE

Grain, Hay Harvest Results

LD261525 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Jun 86

[Text] More than 300,000 hectares of grain crops were harvested by the beginning of this week according to data from the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee. Harvesting began in 11 union republics. The largest volume of work in harvesting grain was fulfilled by kolkhoz and sovkhoz in the Central Asian republics. Harvesting is also underway in the Kuban, where the winter barley has ripened; and in southern Ukraine, in Moldavia, and in republics of the Transcaucuses.

This summer in the south of the European part of the country, the ripening of bread grains is taking place earlier than usual. In the last few days rain has fallen in many areas, which has improved conditions for the growth of plants. In practically all kolkhozes and sovkhozes the laying-in of feed has now started. In the last week the tempo of this work has been quite high and over all now, according to data from the Central Statistical Administration, grasses have been mown from almost 23 million hectares; this is more than last year.

It must also be said that the bad weather in the past days has had practically no effect on the tempo of harvesting the hay on many farms. Here technology has been skillfully used; the mown hay has been ventilated, the preparation of haylage and dehydrated feed has been carried out and yet, there were many oblasts where the work was lower than the possibilities available. Grasses have now been harvested in insignificantly small areas in the Orenburg and Chelyabinsk Oblasts, in Bashkiria and in Dagestan. Much more attention this year is being given to the quality of feed being laid-in. It's appraisal is being done with the help of travelling laboratories, which kolkhozes and sovkhozes are now receiving.

Media on Crop Developments

LD020344

[Editorial report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless

otherwise indicated, on 30 June-1 July. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

30 June

Kazakhstan: Harvesting is in progress in all the plains rayons of Chimkent Oblast. Selective harvesting of winter wheat has started in Dzhabul Oblast. More than 1 million hectare of wheat and barley is to be harvested in Chimkent and Dzhabul Oblasts. Wheat of the new harvest has already started to be delivered to elevators in Chimkent Oblast. (0700)

Mechanized workers in Crimea are simultaneously carrying out harvesting and sowing. Whole rayons have completed the harvest of winter barley and are cutting wheat. On the fields made free after harvest, sowing is being undertaken, mainly of corn for silage. (1030)

Mass sowing of buckwheat in Krasnodar kray. In the conditions of the Kuban the after harvest sowing of this crop yields a considerable addition to the production of grain. The buckwheat sown after the harvesting of early cereal crops, ripens into ripe grain by the autumn and yields a supplement in the procurement of silage bulk. (1100)

Lifting of early ripening potatoes has begun in the Ararat valley; the Armenian Agro-Industrial Committee informs: potato growers are to sell to the state this year, in the republic 27,000 metric ton will be supplied to the all-union fund. The first 200 metric ton of potatoes have been dispatched to Moscow: the vacant fields will be sown with vegetables and corn for silage. (1330)

1 July

Lifting of early potato varieties has started three weeks earlier than usual in the southern Polesye region, in Belorussia. Over 6,000 tons of early potato will be marketed. (0001)

Breadgrain crops have been harvested on nearly 200,000 hectares in Krasnodar Kray. Sample barely yields are teaching 45 quintals or hectare (0200)

Fodder making is in full swing in Kirghizia. More than 1 million tons of hay have been laid in so far. (1800)

TV Updates Grain Harvest

LD250258 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 24 Jul 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video talk by political observer Anatoliy Ivashchensko, identified by screen caption, who sits in studio at desk throughout]

[Text] Hello comrades! The very first of our mundane concerns today is the fields and the grain. Today the machine operators are already reaping the 30th million hectare of wheat, barley, and rye. Harvesting is in full swing

now. It already is ending in the south of the Ukraine, in Stavropolye, on the banks of the Don, and in the Kuban. Grain delivered to the elevators in Stavropol Kray is approaching 2 million metric tons. Kuban grain growers are starting deliveries toward the 4th million metric ton. Ukrainian crop farmers in the steppes near the Black Sea already are preparing the fields for sowing of winter grain crops. The busiest season has set in in Povolzhye in the Russian non-Chernozera zone, and on the expanses of Orenburg Oblast.

Soon, the signal flags on the harvest map will shift their positions even further north and further east. But the map is one thing; more importantly is how will the grain be?

Naturally it is too early to count the definitive harvest even though it is being estimated by the agronomist at the edge of the still unreaped field. This harvest also is being estimated by special satellites. One thing can be said definitely: the grain is better than it has been in the past few years. Yes, the south of the RSFSR and the south of the Ukraine has been fairly strongly singed by drought but, nevertheless, on many fields of the Kuban, for instance, over 50 and 60 quintals of barely have been gathered in [per hectare].

The successor of the father of wheat, the world-wide known plant-breeder Pavel Panteleymonovich Lukyanenko, quite recently still Yura Puchkov and today corresponding member of VASKHNIL Yuriy Mikhaylovich Puchkov, made me happy with a piece of news: the latest institute varieties yielded 80 and 85 quintals of wheat in production tests. A yield of even 92 quintals was recorded at the crop testing plot. And without irrigation, this has never been done before. However, it is too early to rejoice all the same. The main harvest lies ahead. At a recent meeting of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo the question of carrying out the harvest in good time in the east of the RSFSR and in Kazakhstan was discussed. The grains are good there, although gathering them in will not be a simple matter. The belated spring and then the rains have displaced the ripening time of the grains while autumn sets in early there. That is why work will have to proceed in a very strenuous rhythm with the aid of machine operators of south Russia, the Ukraine, and Moldavia, and this must not be simply the next harvest but a campaign of hard work at harvest-time [strada]. This word tended to get used less and less frequently until quite recently. What campaign of hard work can there be at the time of the scientific-technical revolution? But one will have to work full blast [stradat], work day and night, in the heat, after untimely downpours. This is a load per combine of 200 and over 200 hectares, and to prevent the grain conveyers from malfunctioning the elevators have been ordered to receive the grain straight from the combines whatever its moisture and weed content.

The USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee--apart from the well-known incentives has just adopted a decision to give the right to those who will deliver grain above the task, to purchase tractors, trucks, and cars, buses, slate, timber, and cement outside the quotas. A detailed list in order of importance [podrobnyy poryadok] of all these incentives will be published either today or tomorrow in SELSKAYA ZHIZN. And now what we must do is work, work until the evening dewdrops fall.

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

MOSCOW COMMENTS ON PROGRESS OF GRAIN, HAY HARVESTS

16 July Commentary

LD162147 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 16 Jul 86

[Aleksandr Ruvinskiy commentary]

[Text] Two aspects of the main summer work in kolkhozes and sovkhozes, the harvesting of grain and the laying-in of fodder, have now achieved considerable intensity. According to data from the USSR Central Statistical Administration which was received at the editorial office today, by the middle of July grain and pulse crops were harvested on 16.5 million hectares and crops were threshed over 12.5 million hectares. In practice, the harvest has already been fully reaped over one-tenth of the entire grain area. Now more and more regions are quickly joining the harvesting. The collection of threshing of windrows are being conducted by farms in the Central Chernozem oblasts, in the Volga area, and even in such oblasts as Gorkiy, Ryazan, and Orel, that is, south of the Nonchernozem area the first swathes have been cut on many fields.

With the widening of the harvesting front, the pace of procuring grain is also growing. Almost 2 million metric tons of it have arrived at procurement points in the Kuban; moreover, this grain is generally of high quality, strong, and valuable. But despite the heavy harvest, fodder is not forgotten either. This can be laid-in at the same time on the grain fields.

The majority of combine harvesters also harvest chaff into special tanks at the same time as harvesting grain. Yet again, the so-called harvesting without combine harvesters has established its effectiveness, and it is being tried out on the fields of Kranodarsk Kray. Its main value lies in its comprehensiveness, as at the same time all the biological mass--grain and straw--is taken off the fields and losses are eliminated. The whole mown mass is threshed either on the edge of the field or at special permanent centers. Unfortunately this experience, the effectiveness of which has been checked for quite a long time already, has been slow to be introduced in other regions in the country.

Fodder grasses have now been mown over more than one-half of the entire area. A little more hay has been laid-in than last year, yet the reserves for improving fodder production exist in practically every oblast. In some places, harvesting has been delayed and the quality of fodder has been reduced. In

many regions, as in the past, hay is left in the open. Now the construction of light storage facilities and barns for hay is underway at a fast pace but unfortunately this work has not been conducted in a systematic way over the year, but as an emergency at the very peak of the season. The stock of silage has begun to increase on kolkhozes and sovkhozes. It is planned that a quarter of a billion metric tons will be laid-in for storage; this is an enormous amount of work demanding great intensity from machine operators and a considerable amount of transport facilities.

29 July Commentary

LD292250 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Station commentary by Aleksandr Ruvinskiy entitled: "The Harvest on the Fields of the RSFSR"]

[Text] Grain harvesting combines are leaving the fields of the republic's southern part. In the wake of the Stravropol, Rostov and Kuban farms, many kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the Central Chernozem Zone are completing harvesting. The center of the harvesting campaign has moved to the corn fields of the non-Chernozem Zone, Povolzhye and Preduralye. The farms of the Far East Region are also engaged in harvesting.

Altogether, according to the data of the republic's Central Statistical Administration, which has just been received by the editorial, by 28 July grain has been reaped on 17 million hectares and threshed on 14.5 million. Harvesting has been carried out on one-quarter of the entire acreage under grain crops.

Already a few preliminary results of the field season in grain farming in the south of the republic can be summed up. Of course they will be somewhat conditional as the harvesting of rice, buckwheat, millet, corn still lies ahead--so far it is only being harvested for silage. Large areas have been set aside for these areas. But one can already judge how the large-scale introduction of intensive technologies has affected grain farming. On the whole the additional expenditures were completely recouped and brought in for the farms both additional yield and considerable additions to purchase prices for increased quality of grain. This is on average. And this confirms that our agronomic science and practice have selected the correct path.

All the same, the effect could be considerably greater, because farms at which the yields are strikingly different, say, from 10 to 40 quintals per hectare, and this, I will stress, precisely on intensive fields, have found themselves next to each other. What's up? The old mistakes have again manifested themselves. As a rule the set grain quotas have not been harvested [urozhay ne dobrali] precisely where any of the elements of the technology have been omitted, where the precursors, first of all the fallow fields had not been properly prepared. Precisely now a serious analysis of the entire agronomic cycle must be made. For the foundations of the future harvest are already being laid. Fields are being made ready for sowing. In a number of areas of the non-Chernozem Zone it will start 2 to 3 days from now. I will remark that so far 12 million hectares of fields have been prepared for winter crop sowing. This is 56 percent of the plan.

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

SOWING OF EARLY GRAIN CROPS IN CRIMEAN OBLAST DISCUSSED

Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 26 Mar 86 p 1

[Article by A. Soldatskiy, correspondent of SELSKAYA ZHIZN, Crimean Oblast]

[Excerpts] Usually, spring sowing in the Crimea begins much earlier than in other oblasts in the south of the Ukraine, but now nature has broken the tradition. All the optimum dates passed. However, even during the second half of March it was impossible to go out to the field. The mercury column often dropped below zero. At night, frost drew water up from the soil and during the day it was weathered. Specialists worried: Under such conditions the moisture of the mean horizon can be lost.

"Taking all this into consideration, we decided to sow early grain crops earlier, even on frozen ground," said Ya. G. Sayenko, chairman of the Kolkhoz imeni 21 Syezda KPSS in Krasnogvardeyskiy Rayon. "We already had such experience and we obtained quite good results. We began selective sowing, or moisture covering, where at least part of the field was on an elevation. As a result, we placed seeds in a moistened horizon."

In the north and south of the Crimean Peninsula field work is carried out on a wide front. Machine operators are in a hurry. Wherever I happened to be these days, I felt that people were concerned about the fate of the future harvest as with something personal that belonged to them. Every machine operator and farm specialist, whom I happened to meet, stressed that he wanted to mark the year of the 27th CPSU Congress with a significant labor result.

They supported these wishes with concrete actions. Let us take the Kolkhoz imeni 21 Syezda KPSS in Nizhnegorskiy Rayon. As everywhere, morning frost prevented a departure for the field. However, everyone saw that moisture escaped from the soil. Farmers sought advice and decided to overseed lucerne on winter crops. Chief agronomist M. Utkin carefully followed soil ripening and at times permitted sowing units to operate literally several hours a day. Owing to the coordination and maneuvering of equipment, these farmers were some of the first to complete sowing. They harrowed the fall field and sowed pulse mixtures for feed. On 800 hectares they prepared soil for the sowing of late crops. During the starting year of the 12th Five-Year Plan kolkhoz farmers undertook to gather 42 quintals of grain per hectare, which was 10 quintals more than last year.

This spring is unusual not only because of the weather. For the first time farms are working under conditions of the establishment of new bodies for the management of the agroindustrial complex. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes have been given great independence in decision making. This means that a great deal now depends on the personal initiative of specialists and on their boldness to make at times even risky decisions for the sake of the future harvest. Such decisions now have to be made not simply for a period, but sometimes several times during the day.

Crimean farmers have undertaken to gather 31.5 quintals of grain per hectare this year. This will make it possible to fulfil the state order-plan for the sale of grain and to meet the need for fodder. An important role in the solution of this task is assigned to intensive technologies. With regard to winter crops everything has been done to gather no less than 40 quintals of grain per hectare on intensive fields. An important role is assigned to corn. Its sown areas are being expanded and plans are being made to gather 48.6 quintals of grain per hectare.

The sowing of early grain crops is being completed now. The preparation of soil for late crops is in full swing.

11439

CSO: 1824/378

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

POOR PREPARATION OF EQUIPMENT IN NIKOLAYEV OBLAST NOTED

Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 5 Jun 86 p 1

[Article by A. Soldatskiy, SELSKAYA ZHIZN correspondent, Nikolayev Oblast: "Before the Impending Harvest"]

[Text] The people believe that it is the grain in bins, not in fields, that counts. That is why, concerned about the growth of the ear, the good manager also thinks about how to harvest grain without losses, deliver it to the threshing floor on time, and clean and dispatch it to the state. Sometimes quite a lot of grain is lost on the way from the combine to the threshing floor and then to the elevator. Therefore, special attention to road construction has been paid in Nikolayev Oblast in recent years. Asphalted routes to most rayon centers have been built.

However, as in every oblast, there are historically formed out-of-the-way areas here. Rayons included in this category are not always remote from the oblast center. For example, Bereznegovatskiy Rayon is almost twice closer to Nikolayev than Pervomayskiy Rayon, but it is much more complicated to get to it. There are many different obstacles and impediments on the way. I decided to visit such an artificially created out-of-the-way area. After all, this year farmers in this rayon should produce more than 146,000 tons of grain and sell almost 70,000 tons to the state.

"This grain is already ripening in fields," V. I. Pavelko, RAPO chairman, states confidently. "It does not come easy to us, but we have taken all measures to grow a high harvest. Areas sown with winter wheat gladden us especially."

Yes, the rayon's farmers have worked well. However, a certain complacency before the future harvest campaign evokes concern. "If only the harvest grows, we will always be able to gather it." Such a tendency prevails among individual managers and specialists. Only this can explain the fact that for now no more than 76 percent of the grain harvesting combines are considered ready for operation here. Less than 70 percent of the cleaning machines have been restored.

However, there are considerable contrasts even behind this average figure. For example, on the Oktyabrskiy Sovkhoz more than 94 percent of the grain

harvesting machines have been prepared. Many complaints about the poor work of combine builders have also been heard on other farms. One has to potter with new machines about a month before they can be put "on their feet."

On the Oktyabrskiy Sovkhoz people are truly concerned about the efficient operation of every machine. Moreover, they think about prolonging its life. All equipment, including combines, wintered in sheds, where it was restored. However, as on other farms, many complaints about the inferior operation of Privolnyansk and Novobug repair enterprises of the agroindustrial complex were heard. Even though they give guarantees for repairs, often they are in no hurry to repair their defective products.

A different picture can be observed in Snigirevskiy Rayon. A "Niva" stands here on the territory of the repair enterprise of the agroindustrial association. All the points, where an adjustment must be made without fail, are indicated in color on it and the sources of losses are also pointed out. Chief engineers, mechanics, brigade leaders, and machine operators spent time at this temporary training combine. They learned to adjust the machine and took an examination in their ability to do this themselves. Then the authoritative commission accepts every combine, harvester, and trailer. At the same time, readiness for hermetic sealing is not only checked, but the machine is tested in operation.

The grain of the first year of the five-year plan is ripening in the fields of Nikolayev Oblast. It is important to promptly get ready for its harvesting. This can be attained more rapidly if the problem of spare parts is solved. The driving chain of the reaper reel especially limits repairmen. There are no knives, segments, or electrodes. Sheet iron and nets are lacking. Without all this it is difficult to make equipment ready.

11439

CSO: 1824/378

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

REPAIR OF HARVESTING EQUIPMENT IN CRIMEAN OBLAST NEGLECTED

Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 20 Jun 86 p 1

[Article by A. Soldatskiy, SELSKAYA ZHIZN correspondent, Crimean Oblast: "Crimea Begins Harvesting"]

[Excerpts] On the threshold of the harvesting campaign the weather in the Crimean Peninsula was hot and dry. The eastern wind blew for several days. This is a true calamity for local places, because it sharply reduces the air moisture. During such weather grain crops ripen quickly and often get burned slightly. That is why the fields in the oblast are contrasting. On the same farm, depending on the moisture reserve in the soil, on some plots cereal crops are still green, while on others they are streaked with bronze.

As usually, winter barley, which occupies almost 170,000 hectares, was the first to ripen. Crimean farmers treated this crop like a starting crop. This became a tradition. Many managers believed that on its tracts of land it was possible to fully adjust the harvesting conveyer. However, such an attitude toward winter barley was justified when its area did not exceed 5 to 10 percent of the early grain crops. Now, however, it occupies more than 33 percent and its harvesting must be expanded at full force.

The preparation of spur roads and a covered threshing floor, where a VTsS-100 separator has been installed for initial grain cleaning, is of great importance in the fight against losses.

The Crimea joined the harvesting campaign almost simultaneously with farms in Odessa Oblast. Harvesting throughout the republic will largely depend on the tone that they set. However, having become acquainted with the oblast's preparation for this harvesting campaign, I got the impression that in the Crimea control over the course of repair of harvesting equipment was lost in the rush of other matters. The oblast party committee, the oblast executive committee, and the oblast agroindustrial association put too much trust in statistical reporting, which created the impression of complete well-being. However, people's controllers and the technical supervision service had only to check the true state of affairs in the localities to see that a significant number of combines, reapers, and cleaning machines on threshing floors were not ready for the harvesting campaign.

Let us take the following fact. According to the data of the statistical administration, on the Zarya Sovkhoz, as throughout Simferopolskiy Rayon, all combines were repaired. In fact, however, only 7 out of 15 sovkhos combines were ready for the harvest.

Unfortunately, the Zarya Sovkhoz was not the only farm, where combines and reapers were not repaired before the departure for the field. There was the same situation on the Chernyshevskiy Sovkhoz, the Bolshevik Sovkhoz, the Sovkhoz imeni Sverdlov and on some farms in Nizhnegorskiy, Krasnoperekopskiy, and a number of other rayons.

What is the reason for such a situation? Many RAPO in the process of reorganization overlooked repairs and weakened the control over them. Previously, the Agricultural Equipment Association controlled the course of equipment preparation to some extent. Now, after its disbandment, a repair and maintenance service has been established under RAPO. However, while the reorganization was going on, this important section remained outside the field of vision.

The fact that the load per combine is too high in many rayons and on many farms also puts us on the alert. Whereas throughout the oblast it totals 125 hectares, in Leninskiy Rayon, 149 hectares, in Chernomorskiy Rayon, 163 hectares, and on the Semisotka Sovkhoz, 235 hectares! However, almost everywhere plans are made to harvest grain in 10 to 12 days, which is not realistic.

Crimean farmers are to gather a harvest from 515,000 hectares sown with early grain and pulse crops. The fight for the grain of the first year of the 12th Five-Year Plan has entered the concluding stage. The more harmoniously this work is done, the greater the guarantee that the oblast will fulfill the adopted obligations successfully.

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CSO: 1824/378

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

LAG IN IRRIGATION OF CROPS IN CRIMEAN OBLAST NOTED

Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 11 Jun 86 p 1

[Article by A. Kovalchuk, chief of the Water Utilization Department of the Oblast Administration of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, V. Yerdyakov, leading specialist of the Oblast Agroindustrial Association, G. Sander, chief of the Pervomaysk Administration of Irrigation Systems, and Yu. Yenov, PRAVDA UKRAINY correspondent, Crimean Oblast: "Every Hour Is Dear"]

[Excerpts] More than 1,500 sprinkling units now operate round-the-clock in Crimean fields. With a plan of 332,800 hectares 300,000 hectares have been irrigated. The task of obtaining the planned yield on 85 to 90 percent of the areas has been set.

Krasnogvardeyskiy Rayon manages water diligently. Blind panels, which completely eliminate water losses, have been installed everywhere on farms.

However, there is also unfinished work. It is a pity that in this Pervomayskiy Rayon poor attention is paid to the irrigation of corn crops. Only 1,912 out of 8,235 hectares were irrigated on the day of check. This crop is irrigated slowly in Nizhnegorskiy and Krasnoperekopskiy rayons. Sakskiy Rayon lags in the irrigation of perennial plantings. During an inspection it was established that irrigation equipment operated only until midnight there. Then it was idle until the morning. This is intolerable! However, nor do 39 units operate at night in Krasnoperekopskiy Rayon, 33 units, in Dzhanikoyskiy Rayon, 26 units, in Krasnogvardeyskiy Rayon, 24 units, in Sakskiy Rayon, and 17 units, in Razdolnenskiy Rayon.

Equipment should operate round-the-clock--everyone knows this. Nevertheless, sprinkling units at times are moved from one section to another for too long. "Dry irrigation" is forgotten in the oblast. After all, soil loosening makes it possible to prolong the interirrigation period considerably. Some farms, which have developed an enthusiasm for the irrigation of so-called satellite land, have neglected planned areas.

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CSO: 1824/378

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

BRIEFS

GRAIN, PULSE CROPS FIGURES--According to USSR Central Statistical Administration data by 21 July grain and pulse crops were reaped on 25.5 billion hectares. Threshing was carried out [on] 21.6 billion hectares, which makes up 85 percent of crops reaped. The increase in fully harvested areas over 1 week comprises 9.1 million hectares. As a comparison, for example, in the preceding 7 days grain was harvested over 6.7 billion hectares. The harvest is confidently gaining pace. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 23 Jul 86] /8309 Grain and pulse crops have been cut on approximately 33 million hectares in our country according to the latest data of the USSR Central Statistical Administration. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2000 GMT 30 Jul 86 /8309

GRAIN HARVEST PROGRESS--A USSR Central Statistical Administration report has been received. According to date on 14 July, since the beginning of the harvest in the country as a whole grain and pulse crops except corn have been cut from 16 million hectares and threshed on 12.5 million hectares. The harvest has now reached the east of the country. Sown and natural grasses have been reaped on the first cut on over 48 million hectares, including hay and haylage on almost 39 million hectares. Leading this work are farms in the Baltic republic and front-ranking collectives of the agro-industrial complex in Belorussia and the Ukraine. [Video shows two still photographs of harvesting operations] [Text] [Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 16 Jul 86] /8309

MAY CROP SEEDING AHEAD--The USSR Central Statistical Administration reports that as of Monday 19 May spring crops had been sown over 94.8 million hectares in the country, or 66 percent of the area allocated to them. This includes 51.6 million hectares of grain and pulse crops (excepting corn). Potatoes have been planted over 2,207,000 hectares and vegetables over 1,008,000 hectares. This corresponds to 337,000 and 31,000 hectares more than this time last year. After several drought-stricken years the virgin-land workers of Kazakhstan are hoping this year for success. And the expectation is based not on fine weather (a risky calculation) but on more extensive and, most importantly, intelligent introduction of industrial techniques. But people must not allow themselves to fall under the spell of these favorable assumptions. Statistics show that grain production in a number of eastern regions has not increased for a long time and in some places is even decreasing. It should be noted here that while the capital-labor ratio on farms in Siberia and the Far East is increasing, the appropriate return is lacking. [USSR Central Statistical Administration "Agricultural Review" compiled by O. Pavlov: "Land and Grain in the East"] [Excerpts] [Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 May 86 Morning Edition p 1 PM] /12913

WARM WEATHER IN FEBRUARY--Simferopol, 11 Mar--In February the weather in the Crimea was warm for many days. Farms took advantage of this and moved units to the field. For example, in Kirovskiy Rayon machine operators managed to sow spring crops on part of the fields. When snow and frost interrupted sowing operations, machine operators switched over to the topdressing of winter crops. [By A. Soldatskiy, SELSKAYA ZHIZN correspondent] [Excerpt] [Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 12 Mar 86 p 1] 11439

THRESHING OF GRAIN CROPS--Simferopol, 25 Jun--Crimean machine operators are trying to carry out the harvest campaign in a short period in order to avoid losses. In Kirovskiy Rayon plans are made to sell no less than 17,000 tons of strong and valuable winter wheat grain to the state. Farms in Sakskiy Rayon are threshing early grain crops at high rates. [By A. Soldatskiy, SELSKAYA ZHIZN correspondent] [Text] [Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 26 Jun 86 p 1] 11439

ODESSKAYA SEMIDWARF WHEAT VARIETY--In the Ukrainian SSR the area of grain crops on irrigated land totals 599,900 hectares, including the area of winter wheat, 281,800 hectares. Its yield on irrigated land is 1.5- to 2-fold higher than on dry land. Short-stem varieties produce especially good harvests. The Odesskaya semidwarf variety developed at the All-Union Selection-Genetic Institute was recommended for introduction in Kherson, Nikolayev, and Odessa oblasts as of 1981. [Excerpt] [Moscow ZERNOVOYE KHOZYAYSTVO in Russian No 6, Jun 86 p 16] 11439

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CSO: 1824/378

POST HARVEST CROP PROCESSING

PRAVDA VIEWS RESPONSE TO CRITICISM OF GRAIN STORAGE

PM280815 Moscow PRADVA in Russian 18 Jul 86 Second Edition pp 1-2

[A. Artsibashev report: "The Grain Will Not Wait: More on Storehouses for the Crop:]

[Excerpts] The turn of the reaping has come. For the grain growers, it is a long-awaited, difficult time. They lost sleep and spared no effort to ensure a generous crop. Now there is no more important task than to gather in the harvest on time and without losses and give the motherland more produce. With every day the flow of grain increases and the state storehouses are filled.

Grain is our common property, the people's vast wealth. And it must not be allowed to be wasted or spoiled.

As is well known, the harvest requires the greatest efforts by all workers in the agroindustrial complex. The least hiccups in the work of the grain coverage ultimately affect the pace of the harvest and lead to losses.

On 3 May PRAVDA published a review, "Are the Storehouses for the Crop Reliable?" It analyzed the situation regarding the preparation of elevators. In particular in the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Krasnodar Kray, and Orenburg and Belgorod Oblasts. Concrete examples were cited and names were named.

More than 2 months have passed. What has changed, are the storehouses ready today to receive the crop?

In a reply to the editorial office G. Zolotukhin, USSR minister of grain products, reported that the newspaper article was examined at a session of the ministry collegium. There was a principled assessment of instances of laggardness in repair work and failures to meet schedules for the commissioning of grain reception enterprises. Measures were adopted to rectify the situation.

I. Shmatolyan, Ukrainian SSR minister of grain products, also reported to the editorial office on the measures adopted. By 25 June, he assured us, all work on preparing the grain storage facilities will have been completed.

The reply to the editorial office also reported that the USSR Ministry of Grain Products has drawn up a schedule for the long-term development of the elevator network with a view to siting them closer to the grain production areas and reducing the transportation distances. The correct line, apparently. But what is happening in practice:

I talked with N. Grishin, deputy chairman of Saratov Oblast Agroindustrial Committee.

"At first sight we are fully provided with grain stores," Nikolay Pavlovich says. "But on closer examination it becomes clear that the capacities are not sufficient. The point is that in some places there are more than enough and in other places there are none at all. For instance, what is such a major grain rayon as Perelyubskiy doing without an elevator? The farms are forced to ship their grain to Pugachev. This leg of the journey is some 150 km. Excessive expenditure to fuel and nonrational utilization of transport. Grain is stored in open yards from year to year on a number of farms in Marksovskiy, Krasnokutskiy, Petrovskiy, and Novouzenskiy rayons."

The picture is the same in Orenburg Oblast. Grain reception enterprises are vitally necessary in Kurmanayevskiy, Belyayevskiy, Aleksandrovskiy, Krasnogvardeyskiy, Sharlykskiy, and certain other rayons. The oblast grain products administration sent its proposals to the ministry on siting a network of elevators in order to shorten grain shipments to 50 km. But the answer that came back was vague: we'll consider it, we'll think about it....

That is for the long term. But it is a question of preventing hiccups in the grain conveyor and losses of grain today.

The first half-year is behind us. I inquired about the fulfillment of the plan for commissioning elevators. A. Kravtsov, USSR deputy minister of grain products:

"The construction workers let us down...especially the Rosagropromstroy. The half-year plan was wrecked. By the beginning of the harvest, for instance, an elevator should have been commissioned at Krasnoarmeyskaya station in Krasnodar Kray. The construction workers took a long time to get going, and could not make up for lost time. The situation regarding the commissioning of an elevator at Sergach station in Gorkiy Oblast is also worrying. Here, it must be said, not only the construction workers, but also the client--the RSFSR Ministry of Grain Products--are not displaying any particular zeal to accelerate the pace of work. First the equipment was not brought in on time, then there was no cable. As a result, one-fifth of the funds released were not assimilated."

Among the problems touched on in the review "Are the Storehouses for the Crop Reliable?" was that of the expediency of accepting grain at the elevators direct from the combines. Fewer transshipments, fewer losses. This releases many people employed in preparing the grain at the threshing floors. This is particularly relevant to the virgin lands.

The editorial office received a reply from the USSR State Committee for Standards. Deputy Chairman A. Navolotskiy reported: The USSR State Committee for Standards supports the proposal on using the material and technical base of enterprises of the USSR Ministry of Grain Products system to clean and dry the grain received from the combines. The relations between kolkhozes and sovkhoses and grain reception enterprises must be organized in such a way that this is advantageous both to the farms and to the state....

With a view to accelerating the rate of harvesting, the USSR Ministry of Grain Products apparently gave permission, from this year, for elevators to receive grain from the farms in West and East Siberia and North Kazakhstan directly from the combines. And that is correct. This experience has been tested and is approved by the practitioners. In Kustanay Oblast, for instance, nearly 50 sovkhoses have grain reception centers and threshing floors literally just across the road. So why keep loaders, warehousemen, and tally clerks at both places?

Procurement workers share the responsibility for the harvest equally with the farmers. They are doing much to speed up the flow of grain and reduce losses. But the work must improve. The times and material potential make it possible to avoid annoying disruptions and hiccups in the harvest.

/8309

CSO: 1824/434

LIVESTOCK FEED PROCUREMENT

BELORUSSIAN HAY, GRASS FEED PROCUREMENT OVERVIEW

Lagging Oblasts Noted

Minsk SELSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jun 86 p 1

[Article: "Each Hour -- Prepare Feed"]

[Text] Grass on the republic's meadows is now in such a condition that the slightest delay in harvest will entail irreplaceable losses in nutrients. The situation on hayfields shows that the harvest is more or less satisfactory only on farms in Gomel, Minsk and Mogilev oblasts. In Brest, Grodny and Vitebsk oblasts deadlines are being stretched out and schedules not met. There is especially lots of lagging in Pinskiy, Stolinskiy, Prizhanskiy, Sennenskiy, Rossonskiy, Miorskiy, Lidskiy, Krupskiy, Mstislavskiky and Kruglyanskiy rayons.

The fact that even early ripening grasses are not being cut everywhere is cause for serious concern. At the Lidskiy Sovkhoz and the Niva Experimental Base in Lidskiy Rayon not all grass has been cut, even though the schedule calls for the completion of cutting by 1 June.

In some places feed harvesting equipment is sitting idle not only because of technical difficulties, but because of organizational shortcomings. For example, at the Nasha Pobeda Kolkhoz in Belshichskiy Rayon, the work day during hay mowing in the dry sunny weather frequently ends at 5 pm. Some farms do not use tedrakes to accelerate hay drying. Hay storage technology is not observed at some kolkhozes and sovkhoses in Stolbtsovskiy Rayon. Finished hay and freshly cut raw grass are loaded into trenches.

The situation dictates doing as much feed preparation as possible during the work day. The weather makes it possible to quickly and properly prepare hay, haylage and grass meal. All equipment must be engaged in this work. The harvest schedule must be precisely observed.

It is very important to enhance the role of feed laboratories and quality posts. Not one a case of faulty work and gross violations of technology for feed preparation should escape attention. Shortfalls in green chop from the first cutting must be made up through forage quality, grass from unsuitable lands, and by planting feed crops on previously unused areas.

The grass harvest is a militant task of the day. Participants in the "green harvest" should be given maximum attention and everything done for their highly productive and high quality work.

Tasks Indicated

Minsk SELSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jun 86 p 1

[Article: "The Meadow Requires Concern"]

[Text]

Table: Preparation of Area and Improvement of Hayfields and Pastures on Farms in the Republic, as of 1 June (As percentage of target)

Oblast Области	Подготовлено площадей под залужение организациями [1]			Проведено [2]	
	[3] Минводхоз БССР	[4] Главполесье подстроит	[5] Белсельхоз химии	[6] Залужение	[7] Перезапу шке
Брестская 8	—	11	26	62	56
Витебская 9	8	—	16	45	56
Гомельская 10	—	10	81	63	47
Гродненская 11	14	—	64	65	70
Минская 12	14	16	37	58	59
Могилевская 13	—	19	27	46	37

Key:

1. Area prepared for meadow improvement by organization
2. Work done
3. Belorussian Ministry of Land Improvement and Water Resources
4. Main Administration for Water Resources Construction in Forest Zone
5. Belorussian Administration for Agricultural Chemicals
6. Meadow improvement
7. Meadow reseeded

8. Brest
 9. Vitebsk
 10. Gomel
 11. Grodny
 12. Minsk
 13. Mogilev.
- Operational Survey

Year after year, at many farms in the republic work on renewing grass stands in meadows is stretched out and not enough organic or mineral fertilizers are applied to forage lands. For this reason last year hayfields and pastures in

Gorodokskiy, Rossonskiy, Krasnopol'skiy, Slavgorodskiy and Chausskiy rayons only yielded 10.4-14.7 quintals of feed units per hectare.

Everywhere there are now favorable conditions for intensifying forage land improvement work. The needed amounts of organic fertilizers have been prepared. Such possibilities have not been overlooked in Gluboskiy, Lepelskiy, Miorskiy, Grosnenskiy, Dyatlovskiy, Lidskiy and Kostyukovichskiy rayons. Meadow improvement work has been 68-96 percent fulfilled.

The situation is completely different on farms in Krichevskiy, Osipovichskiy, Kletskiy, Slonimskiy, Rossonskiy, Dokshitskiy, Verkhnedvinskiy, Kobrinskiy and Pruzhanskiy rayons. Here this work is going slowly and put off for later. Targets are not met.

Above all, the reason for this is poor fulfillment of obligations by subcontracting organizations of the BSSR Minvodkhoz [Ministry of Land Improvement and Water Resources], Glavpolesyvodstroy [Main Administration for Water Resources Construction in the Forest Zone], and Belselkhozkhimiya. So far, contractors from Minvodkhoz have not prepared a single hectare for meadow improvement work in 8 rayons in Vitebsk Oblast or in 10 rayons in Grodny Oblast or 9 in Minsk Oblast. Belselkhozkhimiya organizations are behaving irresponsibly towards work. They have not prepared a single hectare in 9 rayons in Brest Oblast, in 17 in Vitebsk, 6 in Gomel or 11 rayons in Mogilev Oblast.

Glavpolesyvodstroy deserves a big reprimand for its very slow preparations of areas for meadow improvement in Brest, Gomel and Mogilev oblasts. Here, as with those subcontracting organizations cited above, there is enough equipment. This means that there is no justification for not meeting these very important orders from Gosagroprom.

As is known, not much time remains before the better times for completing this work run out. This is why it is necessary to rapidly find the reasons for lagging and take decisive measures to straighten them out. Plans should be fulfilled unconditionally. The importance of this is difficult to overestimate, after all, we are talking about a main factor in animal husbandry, the creation of a strong feed base.

Spontaneity is intolerable here. What is needed is strict control and high degrees of responsibility for the completion of all work. There are sufficient examples of how to organize the matter. Take the question of renewing grass stands on improved forage lands. Farms in Grodnenskiy, Dyatlovskiy, Molodechnenskiy and some other rayons have been able to do this work with precision. Why then, are the following rayons not able to handle it: Slavgorodskiy, Kruglyanskiy, Belynichskiy, Klimovichskiy, Kirovskiy, Gorodokskiy, Rossonskiy, Dobrushskiy, Berezhinskiy and Osipovichskiy not able to handle it? They simply forget that reploting and planting grass will make it possible to obtain highly productive meadows.

It is the task of specialists at rayon agro-industrial associations and at kolkhozes and sovkhozes to take maximum advantage of the present favorable weather conditions to work on reseeding forage lands.

Minsk SELSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jun 86 p 3

[Article: "Speed up Haying -- Operational Survey of BSSR Agroprom"]

[Text] At kolkhozes and sovkhoses in the republic 1,371,000 hectares of hay, or 57 percent of the plan, have been cut. There is a good pace for harvest work at farms in Luninetskiy, Maloritskiy, Yelskiy, Svetlogorskiy, Dobrushskiy, Berestovitskiy, Lyubanskiy, Kletskiy, Slutskiy, Starodorozhskiy and Gluskiy rayons, where from 75 to 90 percent of the hay has been cut. At the same time, things are very poorly organized in Glubokskiy, Rossonskiy, Miorskiy, Shumilinskiy, Sharkovshchinskiy, Osrovetskiy, Oshmyanskiy, Myadelskiy and Krupskiy rayons -- here the figures are only 20-38 percent.

The main reason for the lagging in a number of rayons is the low productive use of forage harvesting equipment. Thus, at the Vozrozhdeniye Sovkhoz in Gantsevichskiy Rayon, Ye-302 and KPS-5G self-propelled forage harvesters were sitting idle on the inspection day. Towed mowers were not working at all at the Svetliy Put Sovkhoz in this same rayon. At farms in Cherikovskiy Rayon equipment is poorly repaired and some of it is not even taken out of storage.

Technical servicing of forage harvesters is poorly organized in a number of rayons. The needed stocks of spare parts have not been accumulated everywhere. Thus, at farms in Voronovskiy Rayon there are no technical service units at all, and there are not even any duty hours for repair brigades in repair shops. This causes prolonged down time for equipment. The needed parts and components are not available at the rayagropomtekhnika base. This hinders the quick repair of breakdowns.

In spite of presently favorable weather conditions, haying is still going very slowly. Only 708,000 tons have been put up. This is 22 percent of the target for the first cutting. This work is successful only at farms in Yelskiy, Petrikovskiy, Lelchitskiy, Slutskiy, Kletskiy, Nesvizhskiy and Gluskiy rayons. There is serious cause for concern about the situation in Pinskiy, Stolinskiy, Postavskiy, Ushachskiy, Sharkovshchinskiy, Volozhinskiy, Maydelskiy, Khotimskiy, Shklovskiy and Kostyukovichskiy rayons. Haying here is very poorly organized.

As inspections have shown, many managers and specialists at farms in these and other rayons do not practice intensive methods for drying grass. At the Kolkhoz imeni Kirov and the Leskovichi Kolkhoz in Berezovskiy Rayon, cut hay lies in swaths for 5 days, it is not turned; the tedrakes sit idle. On inspection day at the Leskovichi Kolkhoz only 1 of 4 tedrakes were working and the hay bailers were not in working condition. Twelve ventilators on the 1,000 ton capacity hay barn were not connected.

The target for the first haylage cutting in the republic has only been 39 percent fulfilled. Farms in Vitebsk and Grodny oblasts are slowly preparing this feed. In a number of places very gross violations of technology have been eliminated. In good weather cut haylage can be stored in trenches without preliminary sun drying, as is done at the Komintern Kolkhoz in Orshanskiy Rayon.

The target for the production of grass meal from the first cutting has been 35 percent fulfilled in the republic. There is low productivity for drying units at farms in Vitebsk and Mogilev oblasts. The vitamin feed production situation remains unchanged at farms in Drogichinskiy, Rossonskiy, Krupskiy, Berezinskiy and a number of other rayons. There are often disruptions in the work of AVM [not further identified] at the Kolkhoz imeni Kirov, in Berezovskiy Rayon and the Rassvet Kolkhoz in Gantsevichskiy Rayon. There are not only disruptions in the delivery of green chop, but sometimes it is not sun dried. As a result, unit productivity per shift does not exceed two tons.

Inspections by feed laboratories show that at a number of places last week there were no marked advances in improving feed quality. These indicators have even deteriorated at farms in Grodny Oblast. Only 46.4 percent of the hay is first class, 44.3 is second class, while for haylage the figures are 61.5 and 27.1 percent, respectively. Feed quality monitoring has been reduced in a number of rayons. Rayon services do not everywhere support operational interference in questions involving improvements in forage quality.

Thus, the results of feed preparation work last week show that far from all kolkhozes and sovkhoses have made the needed restructuring in labor organization, taking weather conditions into account, and that there is no flexible maneuvering of equipment. At a large group of farms the needed measures are not being taken to assure highly productive work by forage harvesting equipment. This delays the pace of the first cutting and every day leads to reductions in feed quality.

It is necessary to decisively correct the situation on the spot and see to the rapidest completion of the first cutting of grass.

INFORMATION

On grass harvest and feed preparation at kolkhozes and sovkhoses as of 15 June 1986

Oblast Области	Cut (percent) Скошено в процентах:		[1] Заготовлен сена в процентах к заданию с 1 укоса.	Feed units prepared Заготовлено кормовых единиц				в т. ч. на 1 усл. голову (ц) [5] (без свиней и птицы)	
	Of plan к плану 1 укоса	Of schedule		[2] Задание 1 укоса (тыс. т)	[3] фактически (тыс. т)	[4] проц. к заданию	1985 г.	1986 г.	
Брестская 6	70	87	18	527	200,8	38	1,97	2,55	
Витебская 7	36	94	14	606	105,7	17	0,27	1,29	
Гомельская 8	61	100	27	644	157,6	24	2,20	1,82	
Гродненская 9	58	85	20	407	108,0	27	1,37	1,69	
Минская 10	58	100	24	788	257,8	33	1,91	2,44	
Могилевская 11	64	100	29	543	208,8	38	1,29	2,89	

(Key on next page)

Key:

1. Hay prepared in percent of target since first cut
2. Target for first cut (1,000 tons)
3. Actual (1,000 tons)
4. Percent of target
5. Per standard head of livestock (not including swine and poultry)(quintals)

6. Brest
7. Vitebsk
8. Gomel
9. Grodny
10. Minsk
11. Mogilev

11574

CSO: 1824/376

LIVESTOCK FEED PROCUREMENT

RAPE CULTIVATION, PRICING PROBLEMS; OFFICIAL RESPONSE

Crop Development in Siberia

Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 14 May 86 p 2

[Article by V. Brikman, deputy director, Yenisey Scientific Production Association, candidate of agricultural sciences: "There is a Special Demand for Rape"]

[Text] In Krasnoyarsk Kray, as in other Siberian regions, there are large protein shortages in feed during the season animals are kept in stalls. This leads to feed overconsumption per unit of animal product and increases production costs.

In implementing the "Belok" ["Protein"] program in the Kray, in the past five-year plan much was done to improve cropping structure. Large amounts of land were devoted to pulse crops and annual and perennial grasses. Mixed and intermediate crops are being introduced. Grain growing technology is used for early ripening silage corn hybrids. Feed preparation and utilization technology is being improved.

Relatively new crops -- rape, wild cabbage and oil radish [redka maslichnaya] have been widely introduced. In recent years the area devoted to rape and wild cabbage has increased several fold. Last year it reached 90,000 hectares. These crops are raised for seed and oil seed on 14,000 hectares. Average yields are 150 quintals per hectare when harvested for silage and 220 quintals when used for grazing. In Nazarovskiy Rayon 13.4 quintals of seed are obtained from each hectare, in Berezovskiy Rayon -- 12.4, and in Kazachinskiy Rayon -- 13.1. Twenty-five quintals of seed per hectare were obtained at the Vladimirovskiy Sovkhoz in Nazarovskiy Rayon, and at the Kolkhoz imeni Frunze, Minusinskiy Rayon -- 21.8 quintals.

Nobody now doubts the high efficiency of these crops. They are used for green forage, silage, meal, pellets, chop and as concentrated feeds. Rape has special value as green forage in the late autumn and winter, when there is no other green feed. Spring rape, sown in July, can extend by 1.5-2 months the cattle's pasture period and provide winter pasture for goats. Rape cut on frozen ground and left in swaths does not lose its green forage qualities until the warm March days. Preservation by the Siberian cold is reliable and costs nothing. Each kilogram of forage frozen on the field contains the

following: 0.2 feed units, 31.2 grams of digestible protein, 29 milligrams of carotene, 4.7 percent sugar. Corn harvested for silage contains somewhat less per kg: 0.11 feed units, 18.6 grams of digestible protein, 5.5 milligrams of carotene.

The potentials for using rape as green forage are far from exhausted. For example, it is now beginning to be widely used in mixed plantings with silage crops and annual grasses, enriching their protein content.

The energy content of rape seed exceeds that of peas, barley and wheat and is 1.8 times that of oats. The digestible protein content is more than double that of grain forage crops and equal to peas.

The Krasnoyarsk Department of SibNIPTIZh [not further identified] conducted experiments on the use of the Vostocho-Sibirskiy rape cultivar to feed cattle. This research, conducted by S. M. Surina, a senior associate, showed that the replacement of grain concentrates by rapeseed meal provided an 1,145 gram average daily weight gain in young animals, 190 grams higher than in the control group. Similar values are also observed in the use of rapeseed cake in milking herd rations. This is supported by experiments conducted by senior associate A. S. Yevteyev. Rape cake replaced 15-30 percent of the protein in grain concentrates. Average daily milk production per cow increased by 800-1,100 grams, butterfat content increased by 0.13-0.25 percent, and grain concentrate used per liter of milk production declined from 266 to 154 grams.

Or take this fact. Rape green forage is now being introduced to replace silage during the stall period. The results are already evident: average daily milk production per cow increased from 12.5 kg to 16 kg, while the use of grain concentrates per kg of milk declined by 70 grams. In the group where 20 percent of corn silage nutrient content was replaced by rape silage, during 116 accounting days productivity per cow increased by 195 kg and butterfat content increased by 11 percent. The use of rapeseed meal instead of grain concentrates resulted in a 500-900 gram increase in daily milk production and a 0.13-0.19 percent increase in milk butterfat content.

Problems in processing rape oil seed and wild cabbage into seedcake and vegetable are now being solved in the Kray: they have begun the manufacture of PSh-70 screw presses, are putting an accessory on the extruder and are using old oil production facilities and building new ones.

All the same, rape and wild cabbage have still not found their deserved place in all farming regions in the Kray, the area devoted to them, especially that for oilseed, is only slowly increasing. The problem is that in order to obtain a good harvest from these crops in the Yenisey natural-climatic zone they must have the same predecessors as does wheat -- fallow -- and the residual of fallow after the first crop. However, as a rule, rape does not have a place after them in the crop rotation.

Under our conditions high productivity -- 19-22 quintals of oilseed per hectare -- requires considerable outlays for soil herbicides, pesticides and fungicides. Harvest is hindered by lack of specialized equipment. Sales prices do not correspond to costs -- 30 rubles per quintal of seeds. There is still

no solution to the question about purchase prices for rapeseed oil: unfortunately it is only half that for oil used to prepare drying oil and paint used for industrial purposes. And rapeseed oil is a valuable feed product!

It is time to create a system of machinery for rape production. Grain drills are unsuitable: each opener sows different amounts of seed. Harvest by grain combines leads to large losses in the harvest, and not everybody can build attachments. A complex of machinery is needed, for there can be no doubt that rape will occupy its proper role in the fields of Siberia and other regions in the country. In Krasnoyarsk Kray, for example, it is now on 120,000 hectares and research is being done on intensive technology for its production

In short, the problems involving this crop must be solved in a comprehensive manner, then it can have the greatest economic effect.

Commentary on Pricing Policy

Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 25 Jun 86 p 2

[Article by N. Glushkov, chairman, USSR Goskomtsen [State Committee on Prices]

[Text] USSR Goskomtsen examined the article "There is a Special Demand for Rape" in the May 14 issue of SELSKAYA ZHIZN and makes the following comments.

In recent years several problems have been solved with regard to increasing the material incentives of farms to grow and prepare more rape. Beginning with the 1980 harvest, purchase prices for rape were increased from 170 to 300 rubles per ton. This is 55-70 rubles higher than existing purchase prices for sunflowers and other oilseed crops. A 30 percent markup over purchase price is paid for non-erucic [not containing erucic acid] and low-glucosin varieties of rape.

At that time, in order to stimulate the production of rapeseed, monetary markups were introduced for varieties of various reproductions and categories of varietal purity, depending upon quality.

Starting with the 1984 harvest, for the first 3 years of seed sales to the state, kolkhozes, sovkhoses and other agricultural enterprises and organizations beginning rape cultivation were given 20 percent markups over seed purchase prices.

For each quintal of planned seed purchases by the state, kolkhozes and sovkhoses are sold 50 kg of feed at reduced prices and for above-plan state seed purchases -- 100 kg. In addition, in order to give incentive to rapeseed production, starting with the 1984 harvest and up until the 1990 harvest (inclusively), counter sales of cake and oil seed meal have been introduced: 50 kg for each quintal of seed.

Wholesale prices for rapeseed oil have been set at the level for soybean and sunflower seed oil.

In view of this, USSR Goskomtsen considers it inadvisable to now change existing purchase prices and payment conditions for rape and rapeseed oil

LIVESTOCK FEED PROCUREMENT

FEED HARVEST REVIEW NOTES MANAGEMENT SHORTCOMINGS

Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 18 Jul 86 p 1

Article by M. Glinka, zootechnician: "Patrons Out On the Meadows"

Text Agricultural review. According to the Central Statistical Administration, by 14 July sown and natural grasses had been cut down for hay and haylage on 38.8 million hectares. The country's farms have procured 37 million tons of hay (46 percent of the amount planned) and 36.7 million tons of haylage (56 percent). In all, 32.9 million tons of feed units have been procured -- 24 percent of the planned amount and 3.81 quintals per standard head of cattle.

The farmers of Latvia (112 percent of the planned figure) and Lithuania (109 percent) were the first to complete their plans for accumulating hay. Estonia joined them with a report of 105 percent. The plan for procuring haylage has been fulfilled by the farms in Georgia (127 percent), Tajikistan (110 percent) and Turkmeniya (258 percent). But, when evaluating the indicators, it should be borne in mind that in all three republics the tasks for laying in this feed during the current year are considerably inferior to the indicators for last year. In the Turkmen SSR, for example, the plans call for only 26,000 tons of haylage to be placed in storage this year, whereas last year the supplies amounted to 95,000 tons. In the Tajik SSR, the figures were 516,000 and 585,000 tons respectively and in the Georgian SSR--400,000 and 470,000 tons. Thus, high indicators for plan fulfillment tend to underscore more the flaws in this planning "method."

Only one indicator can be employed for correctly evaluating the course of feed procurement operations -- the degree to which the farms are supplied with feed. Here are the figures for forage procurements (in quintals of feed units) per standard head of livestock (excluding swine and poultry) in the union republics:

Lithuania	9.23
Azerbaijan	8.08
Latvia	7.45
Estonia	7.42
Tajikistan	6.03
Belorussia	5.67
Kirghizia	4.81
Georgia	4.49

Uzbekistan	4.44
Turkmenia	4.42
Armenia	4.24
Kazakhstan	4.22
Moldavia	3.32
RSFSR	3.27
Ukraine	3.15

The figures cited furnish no basis for complacency. Indeed, even on farms in Lithuania, which occupies first place in the above table, only 59 percent of the planned amount of feed was accumulated, in the Ukraine -- only 19 and in Moldavia -- 16 percent. Planning bears mentioning once again. The Moldavian farms laid away considerably more feed per head of livestock than did the Ukrainian farms and yet their percent of fulfillment of the task is noticeably lower. It all has to do with the size of this task: the former vowed to lay away more than 20 quintals of feed units per head of livestock and the latter -- less than 17. But this is completely inadequate for intensive livestock husbandry operations; the task is being carried out very poorly.

During haying operations in recent weeks, one particular trend in the organization of feed procurements has come to light. Here we have in mind patronage work and the assistance furnished by city-dwellers. This assistance can be appreciable. For example, the movement of volunteer city-dwellers out onto the meadows in Ivanovo Oblast was organized in a very skilful manner. Each day, early in the morning, special autobuses depart the oblast center. They transport to the haying operations those individuals who are responding to the appeal made by the oblast organizations for assistance to be provided to the farmers in procuring their feed. A definite fund of work was defined for them and implements prepared. The volunteer assistants are paid immediately following their work shift. It is interesting to note that many of them remained on the farms throughout their entire vacation periods and thus they were there for all of the haying work. Brigades were formed consisting of such people and they were provided with housing and designated haying lands. The workers in Ivanovo Oblast had launched a worthy undertaking.

Unfortunately, we are still encountering leaders who subordinate thorough organizational work to a simple order: a request for work to be carried out is distributed to the plants and institutes -- you must procure so many tons of feed -- and with this they consider their work to be finished. I recall the surprise with which a certain piece of news was received from Tomsk Oblast. Here, workers from a local scientific center of the USSR Academy of Sciences went out to help with the haying work. One hundred and fifty physician-scientists, including 35 candidates of science -- cardiologists, oncologists, psychiatrists and narcologists and doctors representing other specialties -- procured feed for the Pobeda Sovkhoz. At the time it was thought that an emergency situation had developed within the oblast, one which required just such an extraordinary measure. It now appears that this diversion of manpower, condemned by the party, has become a permanent phenomenon in the oblast: this year the physicians have been assigned the task of stacking more than 1,000 tons of grasses and workers from the polytechnical institute -- 14,000 tons. The local newspapers would have one believe that the feed procurement work is being carried out only by city-dwellers. And at times it appears this way.

Teachers and students from one of the VUZ's, for example, procured 300 tons of haylage for the Druzhba Sovkhoz by the end of the first 10-day period in July, while the sovkhov's machine operators procured only 18 tons of hay. But the institute's workers were criticized during the next meeting of the party-economic aktiv.

There perhaps would have been no reason for writing about this incident if the desire to correct the poor work of organizing feed procurements, even in other sectors of agricultural production, through a diversion of manpower from the side, had been an isolated phenomenon. Unfortunately, many examples of an opposite nature can be cited. A program is underway throughout the country in connection with the introduction EVM's /electronic computers/ in all spheres of production. This very important process is often being held up owing to a lack of equipment and meanwhile workers attached to the Ryazan Plant for Computer-Analytic Machines are pressing hay for the Malakhovskiy Sovkhoz. Although there is a shortage of construction materials at the kolkhozes and sovkhovs, the collective at the Belgorod Combine for Asbestos-Cement Products has undertaken an obligation not to increase the production of these materials but rather to procure 2 tons of fodder per worker. In the Buryat autonomous republic, a decision has been handed down calling upon the collectives of enterprises, organizations and institutes to procure feed not only for the public herd but also for the privately owned livestock of kolkhoz members and sovkhov workers. We are still encountering unrealistic and thus it follows unacceptable requirements for assigning all able-bodied persons to the haying operations and also attempts to impose a type of hay tax upon the owners of motor vehicles, motorcycles and so forth. The temptation to fulfill the procurement plans with the aid of other people is indeed great. In the Yakut ASSR, a limiting condition has even been imposed upon the competition: only rayons and farms which fulfilled the task using their own resources can be declared the winner of the competition.

It is difficult to exaggerate the amount of assistance which the city is presently furnishing to the rural areas. Many thousands of city-dwellers are aiding the kolkhoz members and sovkhov workers in ensuring that their livestock will have good wintering conditions and in increasing the production of milk and meat for the dining tables of these same city-dwellers. Nevertheless, the patrons must display concern first of all for strengthening the logistical base of the rural areas and improving its infrastructure. The production of highly productive feed harvesting machines must be organized in keeping with the example set in Bryansk and Yaroslavl oblasts. Each such machine replaces the work performed by hundreds of people. The construction of modern storehouses for hay, haylage and other feeds must be organized in like manner as it has been done at Gorkiy and Dnepropetrovsk. Other urgent tasks must also be carried out in order to preclude the need for the diversion of manpower from cities.

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PROGRESS, PROSPECTS OF INDUSTRIALIZED POULTRY RAISING

Moscow EKONOMIKA SELSKOGO KHOZYAYSTVA in Russian No 7, Jul 86 pp 20-27

Article by I. Bakhtin, chief of administration for the poultry industry of USSR Gosagroprom: "Development of Industrial Poultry Production"/

[Excerpts] In each family's food balance the products of poultry production occupy an extremely important place. This became possible owing to the fact that egg and poultry meat production have been increasing from year to year, with sales of these products being carried out in all areas in a stable manner regardless of the time of year. These products contain fewer calories compared to beef and pork, they possess all of the needed nutritional and biologically active substances and thus there is a good basis for referring to them as dietetic products. The demand for dietetic products is increasing annually.

In 1985, 77 billion eggs were produced at all categories of farms. The USSR took over first place throughout the world in terms of this indicator, surpassing the U.S.A., which up until 1981 occupied the leading position, producing 69 billion eggs annually. It is gratifying to note that the task of the Food Program for egg production, established for the 11th Five-Year Plan, was fulfilled ahead of schedule to a considerable degree in excess of the plan. In 1985, per capita egg consumption throughout the country exceeded 265 and in the Baltic republics, Belorussia, many oblasts and krays in the RSFSR, the Ukraine and Kazakhstan -- more than 300 eggs per individual.

Farms belonging to the Ptitseprom system play a leading role in increasing the production of eggs. Last year they produced 48.4 billion eggs and they thus exceeded the level for 1980 by 9.1 billion. Egg production has also increased on the private plots. Despite a reduction in the size of the rural population, the number of poultry on private plots is increasing annually and egg production now exceeds 22 billion units. A great amount of assistance is being furnished in this regard by incubator poultry production stations and other farms of Ptitseprom. In 1985 they sold almost 700 million head of 1-day old young stock to the population, including more than 20 percent waterfowl and turkey hens. The existing degree of cooperation between Ptitseprom enterprises and the private plots of the population serves not only as a constant source for supplying these farms with young stock, but in addition it is also an important factor for improving the pedigree structure of the poultry and hence raising its productivity. A similar process is taking place in kolkhoz-sovkhoz poultry production. Breeding and reproduction farms of Ptitseprom constitute the

primary source for supplying the kolkhoz and sovkhoz poultry production farms with young poultry stock. It can be boldly stated that linear and hybrid poultry are being bred at all categories of farms at the present time, modern maintenance and feeding technologies are being employed and this is promoting a planned increase in poultry productivity. In 1985, 213 eggs per laying hen were obtained on farms in the public sector, including at Ptitseprom enterprises -- 229.

Compared to 1980, the productivity of laying hens on farms of Ptitseprom had increased by 11 eggs, mainly by means of the selection factor and the increasing expertise of poultry factory workers. Unfortunately, the feed factor was unable to have a positive effect on the productivity of the laying hens, since the quality of the mixed feed declined during the past five-year plan. The consequences of bad crop years precluded the possibility of obtaining the quantities of protein resources needed for balancing the mixed feeds. In the interest of lowering feed consumption per unit of product produced, use was made of progressive technological methods for limiting the feeding of poultry and this made it possible to lower mixed feed consumption per 1,000 eggs from 199 feed units in 1980 to 182 in 1985.

The problem of reducing feed consumption for the production of goods is constantly the object of attention by all specialists and workers attached to poultry production enterprises. The efforts of scientists and designers are aimed at solving this problem, since a savings in feed is dependent not only upon the quality of the work performed by the poultry women but also upon reducing losses during the transporting and issuing of feed and upon the development of scientifically sound feeding norms. The effectiveness of use of mixed feed is dependent upon the method employed for preparing it. At the present time, the mixed feed plants of the USSR Ministry of Grain Products prepares mixed feed mainly in loose form and thus during loading, transporting and issuing the more valuable micro-additives settle downwards or are dispersed into the atmosphere, as a result of which the nutritional value of the feed is lowered. Nothing of this nature occurs during the feeding of granulated feed. Such feed is willingly consumed and is not scattered about by the poultry. In addition, it is less toxic, since a high temperature is maintained during granulation and this has a favorable effect with regard to reducing the formation of mould, mildew and other fungi. Thus the request addressed by the country's poultry farmers to the leadership of the USSR Ministry of Grain Products is quite proper -- to accelerate the equipping of the mixed feed enterprises with the proper equipment and to increase the deliveries of granulated feed during the current five-year plan.

Labor expenditures for the production of 1,000 eggs have declined from 2.7 man-hours in 1980 to 2.1 man-hours, that is, by 22 percent. However, during the past five-year plan, we were unable to overtake the U.S.A. in terms of this indicator, where only 2 man-hours are expended for every 1,000 eggs. The chief obstacle in carrying out this work has been the absence of reliable mechanisms for carrying out secondary operations concerned with catching and transporting the poultry, grading, marking and packaging of eggs, which are carried out by means of manual labor. The organizations of Minzhiymash /Ministry of Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Fodder Production/ have been developing a design for egg grading lines for more than 10 years and without success. If

success is achieved in the near future in mechanizing and automating the processes concerned with the marketable preparation of eggs, then it will become possible to lower labor expenditures by 18-20 percent and to release several tens of thousands of workers from having to perform monotonous and unattractive work.

The production cost for eggs is dependent upon many factors and yet it is influenced most sharply by feed consumption and the cost of feed. An increase in the price for mixed feed for poultry is not a rare phenomenon and in all probability it is a necessary one. For example, in 1965 the cost for 100 feed units was 12.4 rubles and in 1985 it was raised to 18.6 rubles. Nevertheless, the production cost for 1,000 eggs, as a result of an intensification in egg production during the mentioned period, declined from 72 to 58 rubles, that is, by 14 rubles and compared to 1980 -- by 1 ruble. The profitability level for egg production is 54 percent and it will remain stable for a number of years. A typical feature of egg production on an industrial basis is a planned increase in the volumes of egg production, an increase in poultry productivity and a reduction in expenditures of resources. This is being achieved through the introduction of intensive factors and as a result of increasing professional expertise on the part of workers and specialists. Thus it comes as no surprise to learn that the purchase prices for eggs have not risen for a number of years. Yes and there obviously is no need for such an increase taking place.

The modern status of egg production fixed capital is such that we can forecast with considerable reliability not only the egg production volumes but also the productivity of the laying hens. Towards this end, the branch has at its disposal a far-flung and well equipped breeding base, sufficient genetic resources, intensive technologies and skilled personnel. Of considerable importance is the fact that the poultry production enterprises are systematically carrying out the technical re-equipping of their production installations through the replacement of obsolete equipment by more highly productive units and they are introducing new lines and crosses of pedigree poultry into operations, thus making it possible to increase productivity and the gross yield of eggs. In addition, measures are being carried out aimed at raising the quality of the eggs. Here we have in mind improving not only their marketable appearance but also their nutritional properties. A union all-round program for standardization has been developed for this purpose and it has been coordinated with the interested ministries and departments and approved by USSR Gosstandart /State Committee for Standards of the USSR Council of Ministers/.

As is known, all categories of farms participate in the sale of eggs to the state. In 1985, 50.7 billion eggs were purchased, or 7.6 billion more than in 1980. Of the overall volume of eggs purchased, the public sector furnished 98 percent.

Egg consumption is subject to seasonal fluctuations and their prolonged storage without a loss in quality is not possible. Thus the necessary capabilities have been created for the production of egg powder. Last year, 8,000 tons of such powder were produced at Ptitseprom enterprises and by the end of the 12th Five-Year Plan this production will have doubled. The raw material to be used will consist not only of eggs which were not sold during the warm months of the year but also those which were not turned over to the trade

network, that is, double-yolk eggs, small eggs, eggs with dirty shells and so forth. However, the sale of egg powder involves many difficulties. Trade enterprises do not accept it willingly owing to an absence of consumer demand. It is our opinion that good advertising of this product would improve its marketing, especially during the summer season.

During the 12th Five-Year Plan, egg production must be increased to 82 billion, that is, there must be an increase on the average of 1 billion eggs annually. For solving this task, use will be made of intensive factors and the branch's existing reserves. The plans call for an increase of 8 eggs in the productivity of the hens, raising it to 237 eggs per laying hen. This will serve to increase the gross yield by 2 billion eggs. At the same time, the plans call for measures aimed at the efficient use of existing production capabilities and for extending the productive periods for laying hens. This will also furnish an increase of 1.7-1.8 billion in the gross yield of eggs. Finally, modernization and the expansion of existing enterprises and an increase in the number of hens will produce an increase of approximately 1.5 billion in the production of eggs. The measures planned leave no doubt. They are guaranteed by the available material and labor resources and they will be carried out in keeping with the established schedules.

Extensive use will be made in the branch of the experience of leading poultry factories. The principal indicators of the best egg production enterprises are shown in Table 1.

The poultry enterprises of Ptitseprom, as is known, produce not only eggs but also poultry meat. In terms of labor organization and production, there is almost no difference between the meat poultry factories and the egg enterprises. The difference mainly lies in the fact that the meat poultry factories raise poultry which mature early and have a high growth energy. The indicator for productivity at meat poultry factories is not egg production but rather the average daily increase in weight and the yield of young stock per laying hen. The meat poultry factories specialize in the raising of one type of poultry: broiler chicks, ducklings, young turkeys or goslings. Naturally, almost all of them have slaughtering capabilities and utilization departments for processing the slaughter-house waste. Broilers enjoy great popularity among consumers and their production is more efficient than that for other types of meat poultry. They constitute more than 50 percent of the poultry meat structure. Last year, more than 3.6 million tons of meat were produced at all categories of farms, including at Ptitseprom farms -- 2,055,000 tons. The task established by the Food Program for the 11th Five-Year Plan, for this indicator, was over-fulfilled ahead of schedule. It is important to note that the private plots of the population play a considerable role in the production of poultry meat. Last year, they raised young poultry stock the overall weight of which exceeded 1.2 million tons. These plots participate very little in the sale of poultry to the state and this is obviously quite acceptable, since once the young stock has grown and has been slaughtered they are used to satisfy internal requirements and this is advantageous to both the producers and the state.

Poultry meat consumption in 1985 exceeded 10.6 kilograms per capita and it is showing a tendency towards increasing.

TABLE 1

Economic Indicators for Leading Poultry Factories, 1985

Наименование хозяйства край, области, республики (1)	Поголовье кур- несушек, тыс. голов (2)	Валовое производство яиц, млн. шт. (3)	Яйценоскость на курицу- несушку, шт. (4)	Затраты на производ- ство 1000 шт. яиц (5)		Себестоимость 1000 шт. яиц, руб. (8)
				труда, чел.-ч. (6)	кормов корм. ед. (7)	
«Боровская», Тюменской области (9)	2025	506,5	250	1,19	159	36,88
«Приднепровская», Бело- русской ССР (10)	316	75,3	261	1,5	170	37,71
Заброденское ПО, Воро- нежской области (11)	433	114,8	265	2,0	158	39,87
«Вевиская», Литовской ССР (12)	580	154	265	1,7	163	41,44
Минское ПО, Белорус- ской ССР (13)	1830	459	257	1,26	167	41,77
«Башкирская», Башкир- ской АССР (14)	1150	273	240	1,08	17	42,29
Могилевское ПО, Белорус- ской ССР (15)	928	225	258	1,44	172	42,90
Томлинское ПО, Москов- ской области (16)	2521	594	240	1,20	168	46,17

Key:

1. Name of farm, kray, oblast, republic
2. Number of laying hens, in thousands of head
3. Gross egg production, in millions of units
4. Egg production per laying hen, in number of eggs
5. Expenditures for production of 1,000 eggs
6. Labor, in man-hours
7. Feed, in feed units
8. Production cost for 1,000 eggs, in rubles
9. "Borovskaya", Tyumen Oblast
10. "Pridneprovskaya", Belorussian SSR
11. "Zabrodenskoye PO", Voronezh Oblast
12. "Vevisskaya", Lithuanian SSR
13. Minskoye PO, Belorussian SSR
14. "Bashkirskaya", Bashkir ASSR
15. Mogilevskoye PO, Belorussian SSR
16. Tomlinskoye PO, Moscow Oblast

The state purchases of meat in 1985 amounted to 2,260,000 tons, or 680,000 more tons than in 1980. The increase in meat purchases took place mainly as a result of growth in the production of broilers. The increase in the production and purchases of poultry meat was achieved through the placing in operation of new broiler enterprises and the use of intensive factors. The average daily increase in weight in broilers in 1985 was higher by 1 gram than that for 1980 and this means that each meat chick increased in weight by 60 grams. An increase of 60,000 tons of meat was obtained last year from the overall number of broilers of approximately 1 billion head. Over a five-year period, the period for raising broilers was lowered by 6 days and this promoted a reduction in feed and labor expenditures per unit of increase in weight and the efficient use of productive capital. Feed consumption per quintal of increase in weight in broilers declined from 431 feed units in 1980 to 395 feed units in 1985, or by 9 percent. Labor expenditures declined by 22 percent. During this time, the cost for 1 quintal of mixed feed increased by 0.6 rubles. However, for the reasons indicated above, this did not bring about an increase in the production cost for an increase in weight. To the contrary, it declined by 2 percent.

During a five year period, the profitability for all types of poultry meat increased by 16 percent, mainly as a result of an increase in the proportion of broilers, which in 1985 amounted to 44 percent. The role played by intensive factors will increase considerably during the 12th Five-Year Plan. More than 50 percent of the entire increase in meat planned for the end of 1990 will be obtained through the use of these factors. In particular, the plans call for the average daily weight increase in broilers to be raised by 5 grams, to reduce the losses in young stock by 5 percent and to decrease feed consumption per unit of weight increase by 12 percent. In order to achieve the planned indicators, the broiler enterprises will be converted over to raising hybrid chicks having a greater growth energy than their predecessors. We have such poultry and they have undergone competitive testing. The parental stock is such that we can now begin disseminating this poultry on an extensive scale. The necessary experience is available.

Over a period of a number of years, many leading broiler farms have been achieving high quality and economic indicators. The production profitability for poultry meat on these farms is 80-100 percent or more. The principal indicators for leading enterprises are presented in Table 2.

As is known, the Food Program sets forth a task which calls for the production of poultry meat during the 12th Five-Year Plan in the amount of 3.6 million tons in dressed weight, which corresponds to 4.4 million tons in live weight, or 800,000 more tons than were obtained in 1985. It has already been noted above that one half of the indicated amount of meat will be obtained by means of intensive factors. The second half will be realized through the modernization of existing enterprises and the placing in operation of new capabilities and, it follows, by increasing the number of chicks being grown to an overall weight of 400,000 tons. It is obvious that the mentioned amount of products will be obtained based upon the use of intensive technologies. However, this will require additional capital investments, whereas in the first instance we can do without the latter. The mentioned computations leave no doubt as to the reality of carrying out the established tasks; they have been materialized and reinforced by labor resources. No special difficulties are anticipated with regard to the slaughter-house processing of live poultry: the meat poultry factories have their own slaughtering lines for accomplishing this, lines which if necessary can be operated in two shifts. In addition, the current five-year plan calls for the production of poultry meat in cut-up and packaged form and in polyethylene parcels to be increased twofold. At the same time, the production of meat-and-bone meal will be increased by 20 percent, since the raw material resources required for this will be increased by means of slaughter-house, incubation and other production waste scraps. There are presently 620 slaughter-house lines in operation at state poultry factories and last year they processed 1.3 million tons of live poultry, or 64 percent of its internal production. During the 12th Five-Year Plan, the program for integrating the production and processing of poultry will be carried out in a more energetic manner, in the interest of increasing the processing of local products to 90 percent.

At the present time, the Ptitseprom system includes 1,520 poultry production enterprises, all of which are equipped with the same type of equipment. These enterprises use modern technologies, they feed their poultry standard mixed

TABLE 2

Economic Indicators for Leading Broiler Poultry Factories, 1985

Наименование хозяйства, области, края, республики (1)	Забито и сдано бройлеров на мясо, тыс. голов (2)	Средняя масса 1 головы бройлера, сданного на убой, г (3)	Срок выращивания, дней (4)	Средне-суточный прирост, г (5)	Затраты на 1 ц прироста (6)		Сохранность молод-няк, % (9)
					кормов, корм. ед. (7)	труда, чел.ч. (8)	
(10) «Вильнюсская», Литовской ССР	4727	1712	58	30,5	260	2,30	95,2
(11) «Кайшядорская», Литовской ССР	3565	1669	56	29,2	266	1,70	97,1
(12) «Кекава», Латвийской ССР	6160	1715	62	27,0	337	2,30	93,3
(13) «Гомельская», Белорусской ССР	3903	1658	60	26,8	314	1,90	96,8
(14) «Дзержинская», Белорусской ССР	3214	1662	61	26,3	314	1,80	96,0
(15) «Усть-Каменогорская», Казахской ССР	5305	1641	62	25,8	296	2,10	95,4
(16) «Пермская», Пермской области	5436	1462	56	25,2	290	2,30	96,2
(17) «Ранна», Эстонской ССР	3946	1594	64	24,2	289	2,56	94,7
(18) «Среднеуральская», Свердловской области	3373	1690	69	23,3	331	2,26	95,4
(19) им. Георгия Димитрова, Украинской ССР	7830	1451	63	22,1	314	2,90	97,0

Key:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name of farm, oblast, kray, republic | 8. Labor, in man-hours |
| 2. Broilers slaughtered and turned over for meat purposes, thousands of head | 9. Retention of young stock, in % |
| 3. Average weight for broilers delivered for slaughtering, in grams | 10. "Vilnyusskaya", Lithuanian SSR |
| 4. Period for raising, in days | 11. "Kayshyadorskaya", Lithuanian SSR |
| 5. Average daily weight increase, in grams | 12. "Kekava", Latvian SSR |
| 6. Expenditures per quintal of weight increase | 13. "Gomelskaya", Belorussian SSR |
| 7. Feed, in feed units | 14. "Dzerzhinskaya", Belorussian SSR |
| | 15. "Ust-Kamenogorskaya", Kazakh SSR |
| | 16. "Permskaya", Perm Oblast |
| | 17. "Ranna", Estonian SSR |
| | 18. "Sredneuralskaya", Sverdlov Oblast |
| | 19. imeni Georgiya Dimitrova, Ukrainian SSR |

feeds, they are guided by unified norms and parameters and they are protected against climatic fluctuations and the spread of infectious diseases. The production of goods is carried out on the basis of technological schedules, in conformity with which the build-up to the proper number of poultry and the placing of eggs in incubators are carried out uniformly by months of the year and taking into account the optimum use of equipment and the laying areas. All of this tends to ensure rhythmic work by the enterprises and the exclusion of rush work. Work at the poultry factories is organized mainly according to the principle of a brigade contract and cost accounting. However, notwithstanding the existence of identical production conditions, success has still not been achieved in eliminating the differences in the technical-economic indicators for individual regions and enterprises. As already mentioned, the average productivity for hens in the case of Ptitseprom is 249 eggs, whereas leading enterprises are obtaining 250-270 and backward enterprises (there are several dozens of them) -- only 170 eggs per laying hen. Average feed consumption per 1,000 eggs in 182 feed units, on the better farms -- 1.55 and on backward farms -- more than 200 feed units. Equally striking contrasts can be seen in

connection with the average daily weight increases, production costs, labor productivity and the use of capital. In analyzing the indicators cited, it should be stated that the chief reason for the mentioned differences is the varying level of professional expertise found among enterprise leaders and specialists, individuals who have still not mastered fully the art of organizing and administering production. Meanwhile, the raising of backward enterprises to the level of leading ones constitutes a considerable reserve for increasing output and raising production efficiency. Permanently active courses for improving the skills of leading workers and direct contacts for the exchange of experience among enterprises are producing perceptible results. Probationary work by leaders and specialists at leading enterprises is having a beneficial effect with regard to improving the operations of backward farms.

Fine results are being achieved from the assignment on a temporary duty basis of experienced specialists from the Ptitseprom staff and scientific workers from institutes to backward enterprises for the purpose of uncovering those factors which are inhibiting normal operations and for developing specific measures for eliminating them.

Poultry husbandry is a dynamic branch and one which is most responsive to the utilization of scientific-technical progress. Thus special importance is attached to the timely supply of information by specialists on scientific achievements and practice. In this regard, meetings between practical workers on the one hand and scientists and leading production workers on the other are constantly being organized at the VDNKh /Exhibition of Achievements of the National Economy of the USSR/ and this naturally serves to expand their vision and to promote an acceleration in scientific-technical progress throughout the branch.

Recently, in connection with certain difficulties being encountered in the marketing of eggs in some regions of the country, opinions have been voiced which tend to favor a reduction in the rates of growth for the production of this product. Truly, as already mentioned, egg consumption is troubled by seasonal fluctuations. However, by no means can this be viewed as a sign of over-production, but rather it is caused by a lack of flexibility in the sale of eggs.

Last year, enterprises within the Ptitseprom system produced 9 billion rubles worth of gross output and from it they realized a profit of 2.3 billion rubles. The funds invested in creating the production base for the poultry production farms were fully repaid. At the present time, the annual profit exceeds by a factor of three the capital investments employed in the branch. The total profitability for the production of poultry products amounted to 30 percent, having increased by 6 percent compared to the figure for 1980. For the period being compared, the capital-labor ratio increased by 30 percent and labor productivity by 15 percent. At the same time, the materials intensiveness of operations, that is, the expenditures per ruble of gross output, declined by 6 percent. Unfortunately, the well known differences not only among individual enterprises but also among entire regions have not been eliminated in the indicators cited and this points to unused reserves and opportunities for raising the branch's operational efficiency.

The task of all poultry production workers, enterprise leaders and specialists and the Administration of the Poultry Production Industry of USSR Gosagroprom consists of implementing measures in 1986 and subsequent years of the current five-year plan aimed at achieving economies in the use of resources and energy, lowering production expenses, raising labor productivity and achieving more complete utilization of production capabilities. All of the branch's leaders and specialists must display daily concern for accelerating scientific-technical progress and socio-economic development.

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AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

AGRO-TECH BODY DEPLORES FARM EQUIPMENT SHORTFALLS

PM011655 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 22 Jul 86 p 2

[Yu. Grachev report: "Technical Provision for the Grain Harvest"]

[Text] A regular session of the All-Union Operations Staff for the Material and Technical Supply of Agriculture has stressed that the precise fulfillment of orders from rural areas by partners in the agroindustrial complex is making it possible for kolkhozes and sovkhoses to considerably speed up the pace during the harvesting period in southern regions and to be well prepared for the harvest in the east of the country.

Unfortunately, the uninterrupted work of the harvesting and transport conveyer is sometimes disturbed, owing to the breaking of contract pledges by one plant or another, or failure to meet plan targets and additional targets relating to supplying the countryside with essential resources. The session noted that a number of enterprises under the USSR Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building are lagging behind with the dispatch of their products to farms. They include the "Tulskiy Kombaynovyy Zavod" and "Khersonskiy Kombaynovyy Zavod" production associations, and Altay, Vladimir, and Chelyabinsk tractor plants, and the Yelets and Melitopol tractor hydraulic unit plants.

The shortage of spare parts is particularly felt today. These shortages disrupt the work of skilled repairmen engaged in the technical servicing of harvesting units and means of transport. The Michurinsk automobile assembly plant, for example, is in arrears to the countryside to the tune of approximately 150,000 sets of piston rings for motors, while the Gorkiy automobile plant is as much as 10,600 propeller shafts in arrears. Other laggards include: the Yaroslavl "Avtodizel" production association, the Kutaisi and Uralsk automobile plants, the Sinelnikovo spring plant, and a number of other enterprises under the USSR Ministry of the Automotive Industry.

Serious complaints were also addressed to the USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry, whose enterprises failed to fulfill important orders from the countryside during the first 6 months. In particular, they have failed to supply the required number of v-belts and fan belts. Those lagging include: the Sumy, Tashkent, Kutaisi, Lisichansk, and Karaganda industrial rubber plants, the "Azrezinotekhnika" production association, and a number of other industrial collectives.

Feed procurement continues and, naturally, it did not go unheeded by those participating in the All-Union staff session. It was noted that farm machine operators are now taking the necessary measures to supply farms with good quality feed and also to prepare livestock premises for wintering in good times. However, the underloading of important equipment by some plants under the USSR Ministry of Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Fodder Production is having a negative effect on this work.

Participating in the staff work were: senior officials from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the USSR People's Control Committee, and the USSR State Agroindustrial Committee, and ministry and department representatives.

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